

Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEEKEND EDITION FEBRUARY 20-21, 2021

Sunday's weather 37 | 30



Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be mailed to Wabash Plain Dealer, P.O. Box 309, Marion, IN 46952, or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email vwilliams@h-ponline.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. For more local news content, please visit wabashplaindealer.com where you will find all of the news that could not fit into today's edition. Get your news faster by activating your online account which is included in your print subscription rates. Our stories appear online in an easy-to-read format as they are completed. Thank you for your support through this pandemic.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Wednesday, March 24 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Series of in-person Imagine One 85 workshops rescheduled for early March

Originally planned for February, a series of in-person Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future sessions have been slotted for early March by the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFCW) and Grow Wabash County. Planned in-person sessions include 6 p.m. Monday, March 1 at the Roann Community Center, 105 N. Chippewa St., Roann; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March

See PULSE, page A4

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Wabash County's COVID-19 advisory level lowered to yellow

ISDH adds 659 'historical' deaths to long-term care facilities dashboard

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Friday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 75th Wabash County COVID-19 death.

Despite that, the local pos-

itivity rate has continued to slowly decline, which was reflected in the lowering of the advisory level from orange, the second-highest level, to yellow, the second-lowest level.

During a televised press conference Wednesday, state health commissioner Dr. Kristina Box said "the color-coded county maps look the best they've looked in months."

The results are as of

11:59 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15. The county metrics map is updated at noon Wednesdays and reflects data through the previous Sunday.

Wabash County's positivity rates have declined for several weeks, but because the ISDH insists "a county must remain at a lower (score) for two consecutive weeks to move down to a lower advisory level" this is the first week in several months the local advisory level has slipped below

orange.

During the same televised press conference Wednesday, Box said they wanted "to be transparent with our data and our data review."

"We are reporting data as fast and furious and we get it, but behind the scenes, we are in a constant review of that data," said Box. "We continue to review our death data to ensure that all deaths are accounted for and those

See COVID, page A3

WACT plans spring comedy



Provided photo

"Love Letters" was Brett Robinson's directorial debut after having been featured in several recent WACT productions as an actor.

Auditions for 'Play On!' set for this weekend

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Over Valentine's Day weekend, Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) returned to the stage with their production of "Love Letters" after several months of absence.

And, now the group is set to return with their spring comedy.

Eric Seaman said auditions for "Play On!" by Rick Abbot will take place this weekend.

Director Brett Robinson will hold tryouts from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 and Sunday, Feb. 21 at Wabash Christian Church, 110 W. Hill St.

Performances have been scheduled for the weekend of Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2 at Southwood Jr.-Sr. High School, 564 Indiana 124.

"Play On!" is a traditional comedy and also a show within a show," said Seaman. "The basic premise is a local community theater is presenting a murder mystery. The show begins somewhere around or near 'Hell Week' and there are a lot of problems.

Seaman said there are 10 roles in the show, three of which can be performed by either a male or female.

Seaman said the show is split up into three acts.

"The first act is a rehearsal a

week or two before the show.

The second act is the dress

rehearsal. And the third act

is Opening Night," said Seaman.

Seaman said there are 10 roles in the show, three of which can be performed by either a male or female.

"Six of the actors will play two roles: their 'actor' role and the 'character' role in the show within the show, 'Murder Most Foul,'" said Seaman.

Seaman said the number of lines varies from 75 to 220,

depending on the character.

"Please consider auditioning or encourage others you know to audition," said Seaman.

"Love Letters" was Robinson's directorial debut after having been featured in several recent WACT productions as an actor, including Felix Unger in the 2019 spring production of "The Odd Couple," the King in the fall 2018 musical "Once Upon a Mattress" and more.

For more information, email brett.a.robinson1@outlook.com.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Sign owner responds to North Manchester Town Council

Jamie Griffin:
Displaying 'F--- BIDEN' banner is their 'First Amendment right'

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The owner of what the North Manchester Town Council described as a "vulgar" sign responded Thursday, saying it was their "First Amendment right."

During the council's regular monthly meeting earlier this month, several members expressed concern over the banner, which hangs on a wooden fence facing South Market Street and reads: "F--- BIDEN AND F--- YOU FOR VOTING FOR HIM!"

In response to Plain Dealer message left in their mailbox Thursday, the sign's owner, Jamie Griffin, said they "do not consider our banner a political sign as we are not requesting a vote for President Biden."

"Therefore we would have to answer we've never had a political sign or banner displayed," said Griffin.

Griffin said they purchased the 17-inch by 98-inch banner on Amazon on Jan. 7.

"We haven't quite decided how long to keep it up. It's never crossed our mind on a time frame," said Griffin.

Griffin said they had received one letter which expressed dislike of the sign, but otherwise, the response had been positive.

"We've received compliments and supportive gestures from a couple of our neighbors," said Griffin. "We haven't witnessed anyone on our home security camera trying to steal it."

During the meeting earlier this month, several councilmembers, including District 3 councilmember Tom Dale, said they wanted to encourage local groups, including churches, to publicly request the sign's removal.

"It's not threatening," said Griffin. "It's a banner that states our opinion about President Biden. We don't know why we would be approached."

Griffin said they would

See SIGN, page A4

Commissioners oppose proposed state control of wind, solar standards

House Bill 1381 passed Indiana House on Thursday and heads next to the Indiana Senate

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A bill that sets out statewide wind and solar standards is making its way through the Statehouse, and local governments, including Wabash County, are standing in opposition.

At Monday's Wabash County Board of Commissioners meeting, councilmembers unanimously approved a resolution opposing House Bill 1381, which was sponsored by Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso. If passed, the bill would establish default standards for such projects including setback requirements, height restrictions, shadow flicker limitations, signal interference and sound

regarding wind and solar development are best made by the citizens living in the community."

"If enacted, such legislation would disenfranchise the citizens of the ability to determine the conditions under which wind energy and solar energy projects would be allowed in the county," stated the resolution. "Communities would be compelled to allow wind and solar projects under conditions dictated by others living outside the community."

HB 1381 was originally referred to the Committee on Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications when it was first introduced on Jan. 14.

"I understand there are many community members who feel strongly about this legislation, and they have reached out to me with their input," said Rep. Craig Snow,

R-Warsaw, on Tuesday. "At this time, it is expected some aspects of the proposal will be amended before it is eligible for a third and final vote in the House of Representatives.

I look forward to hearing the testimony and discussing the proposed changes as I continue to weigh the pros and cons of this legislation."

On Tuesday, several attempts to make amendments to the language of the bill had been filed by lawmakers, with several failing. One amendment which was accepted was put forward by Rep. Sharon Negele, R-Attica, which, among other changes, added language exempting projects submitted before July 1.

"On its face, it seems to be a bold transfer of responsibility from local to state," said Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington, on Tuesday. "This is something that I am generally not in fa-

vor of."

During a televised press conference Wednesday, Gov. Eric Holcomb said he wanted "to make sure we have a statewide, attractive, all of the above approach to our energy sources, balancing that with local decision-making."

"It will be very important to see what the criteria is, what language restricts or allows locals to continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of their locality," he said. "Thankfully, our energy policy as we move forward has been diversified. We want to make sure the local farmer who is trying to maximize their acreage and also keep in mind their neighbors have the ability to do that while at the same making sure we're a great state for continuing

See STANDARDS, page A4

Cathedral invites evangelical to preach, triggers firestorm

Halfway between Norway and the North Pole, scientists have buried a million seeds and crop samples under a mountain in the Svalbard archipelago — in case an environmental doomsday comes to pass.

Terry Mattingly

 That strategy rings true during "this crazy, chaotic season," when so many are anxious about the coronavirus pandemic, climate

change, lost jobs, surging debts and the bitter state of public life, said evangelical megachurch leader Max Lucado in a recent sermon streamed online by the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

"Most of us can't hide

out in a bunker, yet threats of calamity may make us try to do so," he said. "If the wrong person pushes the wrong red button — it's enough to make a person purchase a plane ticket to Svalbard."

But there was a problem. While pre-service publicity stressed that Lucado's books have sold more than 120 million copies and Christianity Today has called him "America's pastor," this invitation alarmed legions of Episcopalians opposed to his history of orthodoxy on sex and marriage. His sermon about God offering comfort in the midst of chaos avoided hot-button topics, but his cathedral appearance triggered an online storm.

Before the event, the Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith linked the Lucado invitation to the cathedral's history of hosting a variety of religious leaders. This has included evangelicals

such the late Billy Graham, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and megachurch leader Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Southern California.

"When we only engage with those with whom we agree on every issue, we find ourselves in a dangerous (and lonely) place," wrote the cathedral's dean. "That means this cathedral, and this pulpit, are big enough and strong enough to welcome pastors, rabbis, imams, clergy of every faith. ... It does not mean we agree with everything they might believe, but it does mean that we exhibit and inhabit a sense of open-handed welcome."

However, Hollerith issued a formal apology in response to the online backlash, noting: "In my straight privilege, I failed to see and fully understand the pain (Lucado) has caused. I failed to appreciate the depth of injury his words have had on many in the LGBTQ community. I failed to see the pain I was continuing. I was wrong."

While Lucado is known as an evangelical moderate, Episcopalians were outraged by a 2004 sermon and online commentary stating that he "categorically opposes" gay marriage, as well as his conviction that "homosexual activity" is a sin. Lucado wrote he believes sexual behaviors can be changed "with simultaneous compassion and conviction."

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God," he wrote. "This includes homosexuality. Jesus loves his gay children. He made them ... and died for them."

Bishop Mariann Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington also issued a statement, stressing that she had assumed "Max

Lucado no longer believed the painful things he said in 2004." To those hurt by the cathedral's actions, she said: "I made you feel at risk and unwelcome in your spiritual home."

The bishop's apology included samples from the many protest letters she received, such as this one: "If you are not hearing and seeing the LGBTQIA+ Episcopalians and allies who are saying, 'I'm not sure I'm safe, I'm not sure I belong, I'm not sure I can trust the leadership of this denomination, I'm not sure I should keep sharing my gifts in this institution' ... then perhaps you need to do some prayerful looking and listening. ... What people see and hear is that Episcopal church leaders claim to have their backs, but do things that hurt them."

In an additional peace-making move, Hollerith contacted retired New Hampshire Bishop Gene Robinson — the first openly gay Episcopal Church bishop — and asked him to preside, in person, at the Feb. 7 cathedral worship service that included Lucado's prerecorded sermon.

During the announcements, Robinson told the online flock to focus on the positive.

"The world isn't perfect yet, and there's a lot of work to be done," he said. "There are a lot of conversations to be had with people like Rev. Lucado. But we know how it's going to end. And at least for me, it gives me permission to be just a bit gentler, to be an instrument of God's grace. I know we've won."

Terry Mattingly leads Get

Religion.org and lives in Oak

Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior

fellow at the Overby Center at the

University of Mississippi.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Saturday 27 / 16 Mostly Cloudy	 Sunday 37 / 30 Chance Snow	 Monday 34 / 24 Mostly Cloudy	 Tuesday 40 / 31 Partly Cloudy	 Wednesday 41 / 32 Mostly Cloudy
Sun and Moon				
Today's sunset 6:25 p.m. Tomorrow's sunrise 7:27 a.m.				

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies, high of 27°, humidity of 78%. South wind 7 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 16°. Southeast wind 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 10°. Sunday, skies will be mostly cloudy with a 35% chance of snow, high of 37°, humidity of 78%.

The gift

By JOE SCLAFANI

Recovery is a gift that is given to us by the Lord. At a meeting recently someone defined recovery as an addiction in remission. Whether you have an addiction to drugs or alcohol, food, pornography or gambling. Perhaps someone is codependent, trying to rebuild spiritually after suffering emotionally. We receive a daily reprieve from our addiction; this is dependent on our spiritual condition.

The gift of recovery comes to us in the form of what I call a spiritual toolbox, some of the tools are the principles that we learn as we work through the steps.

The principles are honesty, hope, faith, courage,

integrity, willingness, humility, brotherly love, justice, perseverance, spiritual awareness, and service. These principles are the guardrails that keep someone whose goal it is to have a transformed life, on the path.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2 ESV) This passage in Romans tells me that I am not to be conformed to this world but be transformed, it also tells me that is done by the renewing of my mind. In the book, "Alcoholics Anonymous" on page 143 it reads, "To get over drinking will

require a transformation of thought and attitude." God wants us to be transformed and the writers of the book Alcoholics Anonymous recognize the necessity of a transformation.

Like the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) we cannot manifest these principles in our life they are the result of God's work in us.

The steps of the program of recovery are biblical principles that God has given as a gift. This gift has and is transforming my life. My prayer is that all will be willing to see the benefit to them in their way, and through this year apply the principles to their life.

Joe Sclafani is the executive director at New Beginnings Ministries of Wabash.

Biden tours Pfizer vaccine plant as weather delays 6M shots

**By ZEKE MILLER
and RICARDO
ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

Associated Press

PORTAGE, Mich. — President Joe Biden toured a state-of-the art coronavirus vaccine plant Friday as extreme winter weather across broad swaths of the U.S. handed his vaccination campaign its first major setback, delaying shipment of about 6 million doses.

The disruptions caused by frigid temperatures, snow and ice left the White House and states scrambling to make up lost ground as three days' worth of vaccine shipments were temporarily delayed. The president's trip to see Pfizer's largest plant had been pushed back a day due to a storm affecting the nation's capital.

At the Michigan plant, Biden walked through an area called the "freezer farm," which houses some 350 ultra-cold freezers, each capable of storing 360,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Double-masked, the president stopped to talk with some of the workers, but it was difficult for reporters on the trip to hear what was said.

Earlier in the day, White House coronavirus response adviser Andy Slavitt said the federal government, states and local vaccinators are going to have to redouble efforts to catch up after the interruptions. The setback comes just as the vaccination campaign seemed to be on the verge of hitting its stride. All the backlogged doses should be delivered in the next several days,

Slavitt said, still confident that the pace of vaccinations will recover.

Biden has set a goal of administering 100 million shots in his administration's first 100 days, and it seemed likely that could be easily accomplished before the storms.

The plant Biden toured, near Kalamazoo, produces one of the two federally-approved COVID-19 shots. According to the CDC, the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been administered about 30 million times since it received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration on Dec. 11.

Nonetheless bad weather forced many injection sites to temporarily close, from Texas to New England, and held up shipments of needed doses.

In Memphis, a city where some of the doses are stranded, the storm stymied 77-year-old Bill Bayne in his pursuit of his second dose. He got his first shot Jan. 29 and was told he'd hear back about the second sometime this week. With local vaccination sites shut down, no notification came.

Bayne said the eight inches of snow outside his home is the most he's seen in 50 years of living there.

"I want that shot bad enough," Bayne said. "I would've gotten there some way."

White House adviser Slavitt said the 6 million doses delayed won't spoil and the vaccine is "safe and sound" under refrigeration.

But as shipments resume

and scale up, vaccinators in communities across the country are going to have to work overtime to get shots into arms. "We as an entire nation will have to pull together to get back on track," Slavitt told reporters at the White House coronavirus briefing.

Slavitt said about 1.4 million doses were being shipped Friday as the work of clearing the backlog begins.

A confluence of factors combined to throw off the vaccination effort. First, shippers like FedEx, UPS, and pharmaceutical distributor McKesson all faced challenges with snowed-in workers. Then, said Slavitt, road closures in many states kept trucks from delivering their assigned doses of vaccine. And finally, more than 2,000 vaccination sites were in areas with power outages.

Still, the government is going ahead with plans to open five new mass vaccination centers, one in Philadelphia, and four others in the Florida cities of Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville.

The U.S. had administered an average of 1.7 million doses per day in the week that ended on Tuesday, evidence that the pace of the vaccination program was picking up. Now, the question is how long it will take to recover from the impact of the weather-related delays.

Press secretary Jen Psaki said the White House was closely monitoring vaccine deliveries and working with manufacturers, shipping companies and states to speed their distribution.

PLAY TRIVIA AND WIN!
WE ARE GIVING AWAY \$1,000 in our new Publication TRIVIA Game

Trivia begins on January 13, 2021 and concludes on February 20, 2021. Look for the Trivia question on page A2 of the Wabash Plain Dealer every Wednesday and Saturday and fill in the correct answer on the entry form.

Mail your entry forms each week, or save them up and mail them all at one time, to be included in the drawing. Your envelope must be post marked by February 18 to be accepted. Drawing occurs on February 23, 2021.

First Prize \$500 Second Prize \$250 Third Prize \$150

Fourth Prize \$50 Fifth Prize \$50

6. In a bingo game, which number is represented by the phrase "two little ducks"?

Answer _____

ENTRY FORM

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

MAIL YOUR FORM TO: Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992



No purchase necessary. Entry form must be completely filled out to qualify. Only one entry per household per week is permitted. All decisions of the newspaper are final. Employees and their immediate family members of the newspaper are not eligible to win.

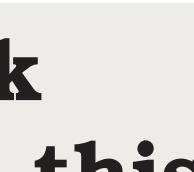
Drawing of all eligible entries will be drawn on February 23, 2021, picking first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners; and published in the newspaper on February 27, 2021. Must be 18 years or older.



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VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting www.bachelorcreek.com.

Catholic Church Province of Indianapolis

According to Jennifer Simerman, secretary for communications for Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the following statement has been issued by the Catholic bishops of the Province of Indianapolis, which is comprised of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the dioceses of Gary, Lafayette, Fort Wayne-South Bend and Evansville: "While commanding our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation beyond Sunday, Nov. 1 until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation." Specific liturgical directives and recommendations, as well as remote Mass participation and resource options, are available on the diocesan website at www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19.

Christ United Methodist Church

On Sunday, Feb. 21, the worship service at Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St., is at 10 a.m. Pastor Tom Richards' scripture reading will be Matthew 5:17-48 with a sermon reflection titled "Developing a Clean Thought Life." Worship service will also be live-

streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChristUMCWabash/.

Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

College Corner Brethren Church

Pastor Joe Bellone's sermons are posted (with hand-outs) on both Facebook and YouTube under "College Corner Brethren Church."

Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. COVID-19 precautions will be taken in the form of masks being worn by prayer house representatives and social distancing. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

Dora Christian Church

At the Sunday, Feb. 21 services at the Dora Christian Church in Lagro, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We are still having two in-person morning Sunday Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Preacher Mark Wisniewski's message for this Sunday will be, "Believe It or Not" from Hebrews 11:1-4 as a part of the February sermon series on "Hope." The Communion Table will be served by Scott Hendry and John Troyer. There will be a Children's Church provided for the 10:30 a.m. service, to be

taught by Kelly and Lynnette Good. If you can't make it to the live services, Preacher Mark Wisniewski's sermon will be posted on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group Sunday morning for all to see.

LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at www.lafontainechristian.com under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambough says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is live-streaming on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Lafontaine-United-Methodist-Church> and that it may be accessed as a video afterward.

Lincolnville United Methodist Church

Lincolnville United Methodist Church, 5848 E. 500 South, will continue to have two in-person worship services, one at 9 a.m. and the second at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. For more information, call Pastor John Cook at 260-563-1406.

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit

www.livingfaithwabash.org.

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester

Church of the Brethren "Streaming" at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

Roann United Methodist Church

Pastor Wayne Balmer will have service in person at the church along with being online at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. The sermon will be taken from Matthew 4:1-11 titled "Temptation."

Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Facebook page.

Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrena Cline stated live streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting [NMMC1.com](http://www.nmmc1.com).

Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch or through the church website www.olivebranch.church. Click "Live

At the Wabash Church of the Brethren, Pastor Doug Veal is holding a Zoom meeting each Sunday for worship. The meeting is open at 10:15 a.m. so that everyone can be connected by 10:30 a.m. Join this church service by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/393263884> or by calling 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID No. 393 263 884.

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) offers

streaming at 9:30 a.m. Sundays both on their website at wabashchristian.org and Facebook page, Wabash Christian Church. The minister is Rev. Haley Asberry.

Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and search for "Wabash Nazarene" or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit www.wabashnaz.com, look for the home page, and find "Latest Sermon."

Wabash First Church of God

The sermon can also be seen on YouTube under Wabash 1st Church and heard at 11 a.m. Sunday on 105.9 FM.

Walk By Faith Community Church

Pastor Greg Wilburn of Roann's Walk By Faith Community Church says to access his online sermons at www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

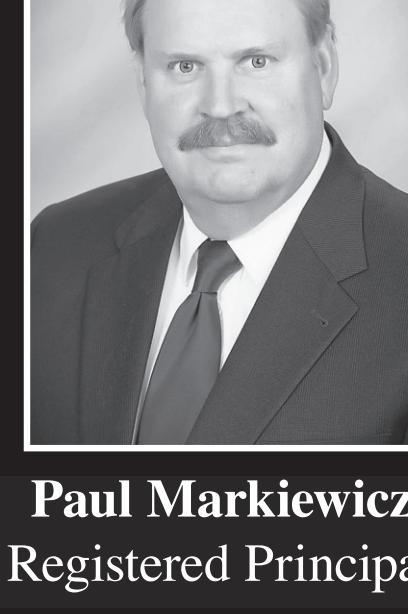
Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at www.facebook/zionwabash at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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Obituaries

Rita Driscoll

Feb. 5, 1934 - Feb. 16, 2021



Rita Driscoll, 87, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 1:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021 at her home. She was born Feb. 5, 1934 in Urbana, Indiana, to John Clay and Mary (Coughlin) Driscoll.

Rita was a 1952 graduate of Urbana High School. She was the House Director at Pi Beta Phi Sorority at Butler University in Indianapolis, the House Director at Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, both at Indiana University, in Bloomington, Indiana. Rita was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash, and Alpha Xi Delta Sorority at Indiana University. She loved and followed all IU sports, especially basketball and football.

She is survived by six children, Rena (Gary) Guttrich of Kentwood, Michigan, Rodney Alexander and Joseph (Kay) Alexander, both of Carmel, Daniel (Carol Kuester) Alexander of Jension, Michigan, Mary (David) Gatchel of Wabash, and Susan (Tim Quinn) Hinojosa of Urbana, Indiana, ten grandchildren, Bruce Guttrich of Muskegon, Michigan, Christopher Gatchel of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ryan (Nicole) Gatchel of Huntington, Indiana, Sam (Lauren) Alexander of Indianapolis, Indiana, Teddy Alexander of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Peter Alexander and Lily Alexander, both of Carmel, Kristen (Adam) Springsteen of San Diego, California, Joseph Hinojosa of San Antonio, Texas, and Sarah Hinojosa of Oxford, Ohio.

four great-grandchildren, Clara Gatchel of Huntington, Laura Springsteen of San Diego, Mila Alexander and Rowan Alexander, both of Indianapolis, and her sister-in-law, Norma Driscoll of Huntington.

She was preceded in death by her parents, twin infant daughters, Nancy Ann and Mary Katherine Alexander, son, David Alexander, four brothers and two sisters.

There will be a private funeral mass at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 188 W. Sinclair, Wabash, with Father Levi Nkwocha officiating. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Lagro. A celebration of Rita's life will be later this summer. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Lagro, or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

The memorial guest book for Rita may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Rhoda 'Lynne' Wicker

Jan. 25, 1956 - Feb. 17, 2021



Rhoda "Lynne" Wicker, 65, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 9:16 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 at her friend's home in North Manchester. She was born Jan. 25, 1956 in Willard, Ohio, to William and Jane (Shroyer) Skeans.

Lynne received her Masters degree in Nursing, and worked as a nurse practitioner for Redi-Med. She loved horses, liked to paint, make jewelry, enjoyed movies and music and especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Taylor (Robert) Reed of North Manchester, four grandchildren, Izzie

bella Reed, Krystin Fiers, William Reed, and Johnathan Reed, all of North Manchester, sister, Jill Beals of Urbana, Indiana, and her mother, Jane Skeans of Wabash. She was preceded in death by father, William Skeans, and her brother, William Skeans.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are Wabash County Cancer Society or Autism Speaks.

The memorial guest book for Lynne may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Wayne Edward Chandler

April 24, 1972 - Feb. 18, 2021

Wayne Edward Chandler, 48, North Manchester, died Feb. 18, 2021. Wayne was born on April 24, 1972 in Fort Wayne, to James Wayne and Nancy (Turnbow) Chandler. At the age of seven months, Wayne's mother died. Later his father would marry Ruth (Springer) who Wayne considered a mother.

Wayne is survived by his mother, Ruth Chandler; wife,

Tina Chandler; step-son, Trevor Laws; step-daughter, Samantha Laws; brothers, Jimmy (Carolyn) Chandler and Scott (Jeni) Chandler; sisters, Shelby (Burk) Evans, Rebecca (Marshall) Kunderd, and Stephanie (Drew) Sauer.

Private services will be at a later date.

Final arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

Carol Elaine Baer

Services for Carol Elaine Baer, 61, of Wabash, Indiana, were 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 at Zion Lutheran Church, Wabash. Pastor Jerry Gauthier officiated, and Susan Garrett was the musician. Pallbearers

were Mark Baer, Morgan Baer, Aiden Baer, Richie Graf, Dana Graf, and Marty Schaaf. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

for full-time and part-time employment, internships and graduate school are invited to take part in the Manchester University Virtual Career Fair, March 5. The deadline to register is March 5, but spots are limited. Organizations can take part free of charge. The virtual career fair is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 on Handshake, an online platform that helps students connect with potential employers. This fair is for undergraduate students from the North Manchester campus. Register by visiting <https://link.manchester.edu/careerfair> or email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

garten Round-Up no later than March 8. To register, visit www.msdwc.k12.in.us. For more information about Southwood Elementary School, email Principal Phil Boone at boonepr@msdwc.k12.in.us. For more information about Metro North Elementary School, email Principal Janette Moore at moorej@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Visit Wabash County plans annual St. Trolley's Day Tour

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the annual St. Trolley's Day Tour set for Saturday, March 13. The St. Trolley's Day Tour is \$30 per person, due at registration, and is all-inclusive for those 21 and older. To register, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours, visit 221 S. Miami St. or call 260-563-7171.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, starting March 18 at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 test

ing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, or call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Southwood, Metro North Kindergarten Round-Ups announced

Children who will be at least five years of age on or before Aug. 1 are eligible to participate in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Southwood Elementary will host their Round-Up on Wednesday, March 10, and Metro North Elementary will hold theirs on Thursday, March 11. Families must register for Kinder-

writing an ordinance might cause more potential litigation troubles than it would be worth.

Griffin said they would keep their legal options open if any new local laws regarding signage were passed by the council.

"When and if that time comes, that's a discussion we will face," said Griffin.

When the North Manchester Town Council met again for a

special mid-month meeting Tuesday evening, clerk-treasurer Carrie Mugford did not list further discussion of the sign as one of the topics officially discussed. The next regular meeting of the North Manchester Town Council is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 3.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Employers invited to Manchester University Virtual Career Fair

Those with opportunities

want it up, put it up," said Griffin. "We do not have a political party preference. We vote based upon the person we feel is best suited for the position in office. Biden cannot win me over. There are many problems I have with President Biden. Too many to name in fact."

During the meeting, District 4 councilmember Alan Miracle, said they were opposed to the sign, but that

"We would not mind it. We fully support individuals' opinions and being able to voice those opinions. If they

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 <http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

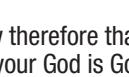
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...

Deuteronomy 7:9

America needs a \$15 minimum wage

At \$7.25 an hour, the federal minimum wage is appallingly low.

It's so low that a full-time worker making the federal minimum wage qualifies for food stamps, and a single parent working 40 hours a week falls below the poverty line. It's hard to fathom how an adult could afford rent, food, transportation or a decent standard of living on the minimum wage salary of \$15,000 a year, much less save money for a rainy day.

Yet an estimated 1.7 million workers across the U.S. are paid the federal minimum wage, which hasn't been increased since 2009. These workers – along with other low-wage workers earning less than \$15 an hour, who make up 20 percent of the nation's workforce – are long overdue for a raise.

Congress is now debating whether to include President Biden's proposal for a \$15 minimum wage in the next COVID-19 relief package, while also eliminating the tip credit that allows restaurant workers in 43 states to be paid as little as \$2.13 an hour. Gradually raising the minimum wage to \$15 will lift more working people out of poverty and help begin to reduce the yawning income inequality gap in this country.

While the federal minimum wage stagnated over the last decade, cities and states have raised their pay floor. Twenty-nine states and more than 40 cities have set base pay above \$7.25. Many are already at \$15 an hour or will get there in the next year or two, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as the states of California and Massachusetts. And many have pegged future wage hikes

to inflation so the pay floor will continue to rise.

Biden's proposed hike is likely to lead some businesses to raise prices, increase automation or pare their payrolls. But that's just half the picture. The Congressional Budget Office projected that the higher wage would raise the purchasing power of an estimated 27 million workers, lifting 900,000 out of poverty. That additional economic activity would boost the overall economy, at least temporarily.

How many jobs would be lost is a point of contention, and we're not persuaded by the CBO's projection that 1.4 million fewer people would be employed by the time the wage hike is fully implemented. Study after study has shown that the benefits of increasing the minimum wage outweigh the potential costs. The breadth of research has grown since 2000, when localities began passing wage hikes. A 2019 paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research analyzed 138 minimum wage changes between 1979 and 2016 and found that the "overall number of low-wage jobs remained essentially unchanged over five years following the increase." Even when the pay hike was significant, there was not a sizable job loss.

But there are still 21 states with the minimum wage stuck at \$7.25, including Texas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin, far less than workers need to support themselves, according to MIT's living wage calculator. The federal minimum wage is supposed to be the wage floor to ensure that a full-time worker can afford the cost of living. States can set it higher,

but legislatures, bowing to politics and business lobbying, have often refused to boost pay for the lowest-paid workers. That's why Congress needs to act.

The Raise the Wage Act would increase the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour in June. Then it would rise every year until it hits \$15 in June 2025. After that, the minimum wage would increase annually with growth in the median wage. That's important. Workers shouldn't have to wait a decade or more for lawmakers to find the political will to raise the minimum wage. Guaranteeing that the minimum wage rises with inflation would help ensure that the lowest-paid workers don't get left behind again.

There is considerable pushback to \$15 an hour from lawmakers in low-cost states where the increase from \$7.25 would be a considerable change. In Mississippi, a \$15 minimum wage would give almost half of all workers a raise, the New York Times reported. Mississippi also has one of the highest poverty rates in the country. Skeptics of minimum wage increases fixate on the potential job losses as reason not to embrace the \$15 target. But Congress can – and should – enact tax policies and financial incentives to help employers, particularly small business, adjust to the pay mandate and help preserve jobs.

The U.S. cannot continue to ignore the working poor. We cannot deny the destructive effects of poverty and income inequality. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 is not the answer to poverty, but it's an important tool to begin to alleviate it.

This editorial was first published in the Los Angeles Times.

Stop restricting Indianapolis growth

The 2021 state legislative session is remarkable for a series of bills that limit the existing power of Indianapolis city government. One of these would remove the control of the police department from the elected mayor and city council. Another removes the city's legal authority to provide bus rapid transit, and yet another would prevent the city

from regulating the placement of 5G wireless devices. The state legislature also appears poised to override Governor Holcomb's veto of a city ordinance that provided extra protections for tenants.

These are unusual issues for a state legislature to become involved in, but there's more. One bill would prevent Indianapolis, or any other city, from changing its name. To be fair, that bill might be targeted at Russiaville, Toad Hop or Slab Town, not Indianapolis. Another would limit the powers of Indianapolis to undertake land-use authority within its city limits. A casual observer might conclude that some members of the General Assembly have abandoned federalism, that mainstay of conservative thought for the past 244 years. That couldn't possibly be the explanation, though; it must be something else.

This flurry of legislation aimed at the heart of Indiana's largest municipal government seems to signal that something unseemly is happening in Indianapolis. It implies that Indy is failing at something important, something at which the rest of Indiana is successful. Maybe, Indianapolis has a problem that is keeping it from attracting people, jobs or economic activity like the rest of the state. Surely that is the case? It must be that Indianapolis and the Indy metro region are doing so much worse than the rest of the state, that lawmakers feel compelled to intervene. Let's see what the data says about that.

First, it is important to define the geographies.

There is the City of Indianapolis proper, which is essentially Marion County. Then, there is the Indianapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area, which also consists of the surrounding counties. The legislation noted above would affect both the City of Indianapolis and the surrounding metropolitan area that depends upon the success of the city.

From 2000 to 2019, Indiana's population grew by 639,000 persons. Within the Indianapolis metropolitan area population grew by 543,000. So far this century, a full 85 percent of the state's population growth happened within the Indianapolis metro area. Outside of the Indy metro, the state had just 96,000 new residents. By comparison, Marion County alone saw 104,000 new residents over the same time period.

Since 2000, the Indy metro area has grown by 35 percent, the City of Indianapolis by 12 percent, and the whole rest of the state by 2.1 percent. The City of Indianapolis saw more population growth this century than the 80 non-Indy metro counties combined. So, whatever concern about crime, zoning or building design residents have about Indy, they are worse everywhere else. Surely there is something else troubling the General Assembly for them to take such a keen interest in restricting Indianapolis government. What about jobs?

Since 2000, the Indianapolis metro region has added some 154,000 jobs. Of those jobs, the City of Indianapolis can account for 18,000 new jobs over the same time period. Here's the rub – over the same time period, all the rest of Indiana lost a whopping 151,000 jobs. So far in this century, the Indianapolis region actually absorbed more than 100 percent of all the new jobs created in Indiana.

So, if businesses have a problem with the way the Indy region is run, the problem is far, far, far worse in the other 80 counties.

Likewise, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area has absorbed 65 percent of all the Gross Domestic Product growth this century. So far in the 21st Century, the City of Indianapolis alone received one out of every four new dollars of economic activity created statewide. Today, a worker in the City of Indianapolis produces \$179 worth of goods and services for every \$100 produced by a worker outside the Indy region.

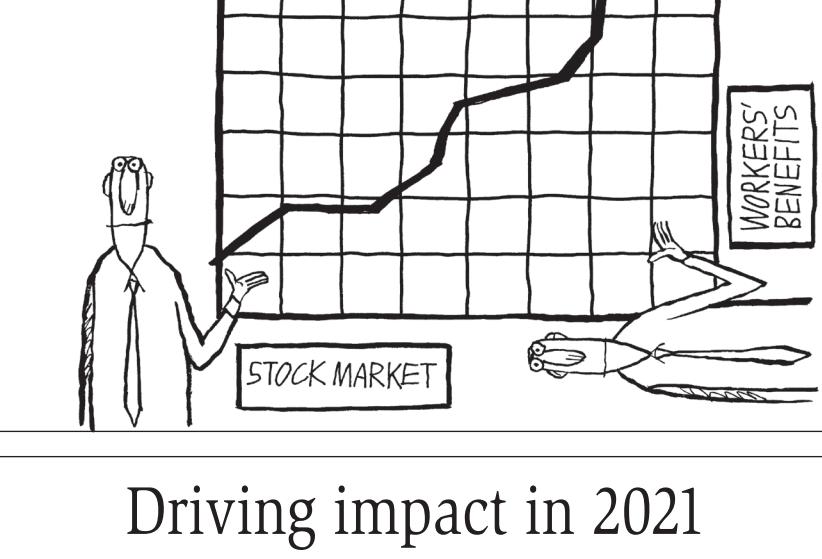
The real shocker is that each year residents of Marion County send, on net, a bit more than \$500 per person in tax revenues to residents of the rest of the state. All told, 20 Hoosier counties pay more taxes to the state than they receive in tax revenues from the state. Five of those are in the Indianapolis metro area. So, just to summarize it clearly, Indianapolis, and the Indianapolis region as a whole, are growing leaps and bounds faster than the rest of the state. At the same time, they bear a greater state tax burden, of which a significant share is sent to other counties. They get far less back in tax dollars than they spend.

This realization ought to prompt a bit of circumspection among Indiana's lawmakers. It stands to reason that because Indianapolis is outperforming the state on growth in population, jobs, GDP and worker productivity, the remainder of the state ought to be taking notes. Instead, lawmakers are throwing roadblocks in front of this, and other cities. A modicum of wisdom would incline legislation toward more, rather than less, local autonomy.

Governing is hard work, and for serious people. One way to make mockery of the seriousness of those tasks is legislation that removes rental rules from city council, prohibits municipal governments from land use planning, or keeps the good people of Mudsock or Gnaw Bone from changing their town's name.

Households and businesses are voting with their feet. The City of Indianapolis is growing five times faster than the 80 non-Indy metro counties combined. For whatever flaws the city and region might have, the rest of Indiana would be better off economically if it were more like Indianapolis. The General Assembly should permit every one of our municipal governments more freedom to mimic the success of Indianapolis. And, if any member of the legislature still wants to decide how many two-way streets a city should have, to run a police force, or dictate how tall 5G towers must be, there is a quick and easy way to do so. Run for mayor.

Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.



Driving impact in 2021

By TIM KEAN

Looking forward we anticipate positive signs of familiar occurrences. In four weeks, it will officially be spring, with or without cooperation from the weather. We can all remember 70-degree weather during a spring break and other years a big snowstorm during the same time. As it looks now, we should see improvement in community circumstances with COVID-19, kids back in school and possibly restrictions may be a bit loosened as well. Hopefully, a general improvement in the country's collective disposition as well, wouldn't that be nice.

As we trudge through the last half of winter, we always are faced with potential cancellations of some of our planned distributions due to extreme weather as we have just experienced. We just had one of those rare occurrences when we closed our facility for a couple of days. We decided to err on the side of caution with staff and volunteer safety as things were just too "iffy" with snow, wind chill and drifting. Notifying our partners of all our scheduled deliveries in multiple counties along with in-bound freight companies is no small undertaking. Thankfully, we rarely ever have to grind the gears of this ever-moving vehicle. These things can affect our short-term impact.

We're very excited as we look toward the rest of 2021 and our

longer-term impact with some expansion and new inventory lines that will address some stability barriers for many families. In 2020, we took some big steps in our new relationship as a member of the National Diaper Bank. This allowed us to access and distribute over 247,000 diapers in our eight-county service area. We see 2021 as a year of expansion for this inventory line as we feel we're just getting started to supply supplemental assistance to families.

We are also expanding our non-food and personal hygiene inventory. Shampoo, bar soap, men's and women's deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and laundry detergent are now part of our 2021 growth plan to address much-needed items that are not covered by SNAP, also known as food stamps. Because of our membership with the National Diaper Bank, we were also connected to the Alliance for Period Supplies. Our first order has been placed for this important resource. Under-resourced adolescent and teenage girls can experience higher levels of absenteeism in school or find themselves relying on supplies that the school staff is providing from their pocket. Personal hygiene supplies in all their forms start at home unless personal knowledge and budget are barriers. Negative social encounters, bullying and stigmatizing are difficult enough for kids in general, but can be taken to another level

when these resources are scarce or not available at all. Our connections to schools through The Big Idea initiative and our agency partners will provide a pathway for those important supplies to get into the hands of struggling families. We have received enthusiastic feedback from schools where we have shared our plans for this growth.

Some might say, why is a food bank going in a direction that doesn't have any impact on hunger? We believe that the whole circumstance of a person in a struggling family must be addressed. In addition to products, social, emotional, educational and spiritual pieces are all part of the same person. Food goes hand in hand with healthy minds and bodies. Access to basic personal care products that contribute toward a healthy lifestyle and positive self-esteem can positively impact a struggling family as much as a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk. We see the need and have the opportunity to do both. 2021 will be a very impactful year.

Tim Kean is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95-member agencies, programs, 15 senior sites and 35 schools provides relationship building and food assistance to more than 67,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.

Suspected Russian hack fuels new U.S. action on cybersecurity

By BEN FOX
and ALAN SUDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jolted by a sweeping hack that may have revealed government and corporate secrets to Russia, U.S. officials are scrambling to reinforce the nation's cyber defenses and recognizing that an agency created two years ago to protect America's networks and infrastructure lacks the money, tools and authority to counter such sophisticated threats.

The breach, which hijacked widely used software from Texas-based SolarWinds Inc., has exposed the profound vulnerability of civilian government networks and the limitations of efforts to detect threats.

It's also likely to unleash a wave of spending on technology modernization and cybersecurity.

"It's really highlighted the investments we need to make in cybersecurity to have the visibility to block these attacks in the future," Anne Neuberger, the newly appointed deputy national security adviser for cyber and emergency technology said Wednesday at a White House briefing.

The reaction reflects the severity of a hack that was disclosed only in December. The hackers, as yet unidentified but described by officials as "likely Russian," had unfettered access to the data and email of at least nine U.S. government agencies and about 100 private companies, with the full extent of the compromise still unknown. And while this incident appeared to be aimed at stealing information, it heightened fears that future hackers could damage critical infrastructure, like electrical grids or water systems.

President Joe Biden plans to release an executive order soon that Neuberger said will include about eight measures intended to address security gaps exposed by the hack. The administration has also proposed expanding by 30 percent the budget of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, or CISA, a little-known entity now under intense scrutiny because of the SolarWinds breach.

Biden, making his first major international speech Friday to the Munich Security Conference, said that dealing with "Russian recklessness and hacking into computer networks in the United States and the world has become critical to protecting our collective security."

Republicans and Democrats in Congress have called for expanding the size and role of the agency, a component of the Department of Homeland Security. It was created in November 2018 amid a sense that U.S. adversaries were increasingly targeting civilian government and corporate networks as well as the "critical" infrastructure, such as the energy grid that is increasingly vulnerable in a wired world.

Speaking at a recent hearing on cybersecurity, Rep. John Katko, a Republican from New York, urged his colleagues to quickly "find a legislative vehicle to give CISA the resources it needs to fully respond and protect us."

Biden's COVID-19 relief package called for \$690 million more for CISA, as well as providing the agency with \$9 billion to modernize IT across the government in partnership with the General Services Administration.

That has been pulled from the latest version of the bill because some members didn't see a connection to the pandemic. But Rep. Jim Langevin, co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, said additional funding for CISA is likely to reemerge with bipartisan support in upcoming legislation, perhaps an infrastructure bill.

"Our cyber infrastructure is every bit as important as our roads and bridges," Langevin, a Rhode Island Democrat, said in an interview.

"It's important to our economy. It's important to protecting human life, and we need to make sure we have a modern and resilient cyber infrastructure."

CISA operates a threat-detection system known as "Einstein" that was unable to detect the SolarWinds breach. Brandon Wales, CISA's acting director, said that was because the breach was hidden in a legitimate software update from SolarWinds to its customers. After it was able to identify the malicious activity, the system was able to scan federal networks and identify some government victims. "It was designed to work in concert with other security programs inside the agencies," he said.

The former head of CISA, Christopher Krebs, told the House Homeland Security Committee this month that the U.S. should increase support to the agency, in part so it can issue grants to state and local governments to improve their cybersecurity and accelerate IT modernization across the federal government, which is part of the Biden proposal.

"Are we going to stop every attack? No. But we can take care of the most common risks and make the bad guys work that much harder and limit their success," said Krebs, who was ousted by then-President Donald Trump after the election and now co-owns a consulting company whose clients include SolarWinds.

The breach was discovered in early December by the private security firm FireEye, a cause of concern for some officials.

"It was pretty alarming that we found out about it through a private company as opposed to our being able to detect it ourselves to begin with," Avril Haines, the director of national intelligence, said at her January confirmation hearing.

Right after the hack was announced, the Treasury Department bypassed its normal competitive contracting process to hire the private security firm CrowdStrike, U.S. contract records show. The department declined to comment. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has said that dozens of email accounts of top officials at the agency were hacked.

The Social Security Administration hired FireEye to do an independent forensic analysis of its network logs. The agency had a "backdoor code" installed like other SolarWinds customers, but "there were no indicators suggesting we were targeted or that a future attack occurred beyond the initial software installation," spokesperson Mark Hinkle said.

Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the hack has highlighted several failures at the federal level but not necessarily a lack of expertise by public sector employees. Still, "I doubt we will ever have all the capacity we'd need in-house," he said.

There have been some new cybersecurity measures taken in recent months. In the defense policy bill that passed in January, lawmakers created a national director of cybersecurity, replacing a position at the White House that had been cut under Trump, and granted CISA the power to issue administrative subpoenas as part of its efforts to identify vulnerable systems and notify operators.

The legislation also granted CISA increased authority to hunt for threats across the networks of civilian government agencies, something Langevin said they were only previously able to do when invited.

"In practical terms, what that meant is they weren't invited in because no department or agency wants to look bad," he said. "So you know what was happening? Everyone was sticking their heads in the sand and hoping that cyberthreats were going to go away."

Back in Paris pact, U.S. faces tougher climate steps ahead

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
and SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

worldwide global climate pact for 107 days. It was part of Trump's withdrawal from global allegiances in general and his oft-stated but false view that global warming was a laughably mistaken take by the world's scientists.

More broadly, Trump reversed Obama-era initiatives to rein in oil, gas and coal emissions and opened new federal lands and waters to exploration and drilling. Biden is working to overturn those measures and additionally has pledged a \$2 trillion remake of U.S. power grids, transportation systems and other infrastructure to sharply cut fossil fuel pollution.

While Friday's return is heavily symbolic, world leaders say they expect America to prove its seriousness to the cause. They are particularly eager for the United States to announce its new national 2030 target for cutting fossil fuel emissions, which scientists agree are altering the Earth's climate and worsening the extremes of drought, hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday that the official American reentry "is itself very important," as is Biden's announcement that the U.S. will return to providing climate aid to poorer nations, as promised in 2009.

"It's the political message that's being sent," said Christiana Figueres, the former United Nations climate chief. She was one of the leading forces in hammering out the mostly voluntary

2015 agreement in which nations set their own goals to reduce greenhouse gases.

One fear was that other nations would follow America in abandoning the climate fight, but none did, Figueres said. She said the real issue was four years of climate inaction by the Trump administration.

American cities, states and businesses still worked to reduce heat-trapping carbon dioxide but without the participation of the federal government.

"From a political symbol-

ism perspective, whether it's 100 days or four years,

it's basically the same thing," Figueres said. "It's not about how many days.

It's the political symbolism that the largest economy

refuses to see the opportunity of addressing climate change."

"We've lost too much time," Figueres said.

Inger Andersen, the environment program director at the United Nations, said America has to prove its leadership to the rest of the world, but she said she has no doubt it will when it submits its required emissions cutting targets.

"We hope they will translate into a very meaningful reduction of emissions, and they will be an example for other countries to follow," Guterres said.

Already, more than 120 nations, including No. 1 emitter China, have promised to have net zero carbon emissions around midcentury.

The Biden administration is working now on a target that balances meaningful cuts in emissions with political and financial realities. Settling on a U.S. emissions

goal by April, when Biden plans to host world leaders for an Earth Day summit, would help the administration prod other countries for ambitious emissions cuts as well.

Republican leaders already are fighting it.

Wyoming Sen. John Barasso, the top Republican on the Senate energy panel, has criticized Biden for rejoining the Paris accord, tweeting: "Returning to the Paris climate agreement will raise Americans' energy costs and won't solve climate change. The Biden administration will set unworkable targets for the United States while China and Russia can continue with business as usual."

University of Maryland environment professor Nate Hultman, who worked on the Obama administration's official Paris goal, said he expects a 2030 target of cutting carbon dioxide emissions between 40 percent and 50 percent from the 2005 baseline levels.

A longtime international goal, included in the Paris accord with an even more stringent target, is to keep warming below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit since pre-industrial times. The world has already warmed 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit since that time.

The United States' return to the Paris accord and an ambitious target for emissions cuts would make limiting warming "to well below 2 degrees – not just to 2 degrees but below 2 degrees – a lot more likely," said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather, energy and climate director for the Breakthrough Institute.

Issue of guns in capitol buildings divide states after recent armed protests

By IRIS SAMUELS
and LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press/Report for America

Eight states allow only concealed firearms inside their capitols, while two states allow only open carry.

Montana and Utah are two of at least 13 states that do not have metal detectors at the entrance to their capitols. The statehouses are open to the public even as many have closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Several other states, though, are moving to restrict guns inside their capitols. In Michigan, where armed protesters forced their way inside the Statehouse last year and the FBI said it uncovered a plot to kidnap the governor, a state panel banned the open carry of guns in the Capitol and near permitted demonstrations has cleared a committee and is awaiting a vote by the full Senate.

"The purpose of openly carrying a weapon is to chill other people's voices. And it works," said its sponsor, Democratic state Sen. Patty Kuderer.

In nearby Oregon, crowds opposed to the Statehouse being closed to the public during a pandemic-related session stormed the building, including at least one person armed with an AR-15. And in Idaho, self-styled "patriots," anti-vaccination groups and others forced their way past police at the Capitol in August, shattering a window as they pushed and shoved into a gallery.

In Montana, though, Republican Rep. Seth Berglee said the U.S. Capitol riot

didn't affect his thinking about the law he sponsored.

"People that have a permit are extremely law-abiding, and they are the type of people I would want to have around. I see them as being a deterrent to bad things happening," he said.

There's a similar proposal this year in Oklahoma, where gun rights advocates are again pushing to allow people with a license to carry firearms inside the Capitol. It hasn't yet had a hearing.

"A person needs to be able to protect themselves, no matter where they are," said Don Spencer, president of the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association.

Not everyone in Montana feels safer with the new law, however. Democratic House Minority Leader Kim Abbott said more guns could add a chilling new dimension to debates in polarized times.

"If you have more guns in the building when you're talking about things that are so personal and intense ... you do worry about things escalating," she said.

Arkansas state senator says he's leaving Republican Party

By ANDREW DEMILLO
Associated Press

ing his decision, he cited Trump's insults about immigrants, women, and John McCain, as well as his false attacks on the election's legitimacy leading up to the Jan. 6 riot.

"For me, that day was the final straw," Hendren said. "I asked myself, what in the world would I tell my grandchildren when they ask one day, what happened and what did I do about it?"

Hendren has clashed with Arkansas Republicans on other issues. He's the lead sponsor of a hate crimes bill that has drawn resistance from some conservatives and was the only Republican in the Senate to vote against a "Stand Your Ground" bill that loosened restrictions on the use of deadly force in self-defense.

Hendren's decision keeps him out of a GOP primary that has been overshadowed by former White House

Press Secretary Sarah Sanders' candidacy. Sanders, the daughter of former Gov. Mike Huckabee, indicated she would lean heavily on Trump and his rhetoric with an announcement video vowing to fight the "radical left."

Attorney General Leslie

Rutledge is also running for the party's nomination, while Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin dropped out of the race last week to instead run for attorney general. Hutchinson, who has been in office since 2015, is barred by term limits from seeking reelection.

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Southern cities hit hard by storms face new crisis: No water

By PAUL J. WEBER
and ACACIA CORONADO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Southern cities slammed by winter storms that left millions without power for days have traded one crisis for another: Busted water pipes ruptured by record-low temperatures have created a shortage of clean drinking water, shut down the Memphis airport on Friday and left hospitals struggling to maintain sanitary conditions.

Texas authorities ordered 7 million people — a quarter of the population in the nation's second-largest state — to boil tap water before drinking it because low water pressure could have allowed bacteria to seep into the system. A man died at an Abilene health care facility when a lack of water pressure made medical treatment impossible.

About 260,000 homes and businesses in Tennessee's largest county, which includes Memphis, were told to boil water because of water main ruptures and problems at pumping stations. Restaurants that can't do so or don't have bottled water were ordered to close. And water pressure problems prompted Memphis International Airport to cancel all incoming and outgoing Friday flights.

In Jackson, Mississippi, most of the city of about 161,000 had no running water. Crews pumped water to refill city tanks but faced a shortage of chemicals for treatment because icy roads made it difficult for distributors to deliver them, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said.

"We are dealing with an extreme challenge with getting more water through our distribution system," Lumumba said.

The city was providing water for flushing toilets and drinking, but residents had to drive to pick it up — leaving the elderly and those living on icy roads vulnerable.

Lisa Thomas said her driveway on a hill in Jackson was a sheet of ice. Her husband, who is on a defibrillator and heart monitor, is running out of his heart medication, with only enough to get him through Sunday because she hasn't been able to go to the pharmacy.

"People are in dire need here," Thomas said.

The water woes were the latest misery for residents left without heat or electricity for days after ice and snow storms swept through early in the week, forcing utilities from Minnesota to Texas to implement rolling blackouts to ease strained power grids.

Texas electrical grid operators said Friday that transmission had returned to normal for the first time since a storm knocked out power to more than 4 million customers. Smaller outages remained, but Bill Magness, president of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said the grid now has enough capacity to provide power throughout the entire system.

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered an investigation into the failure in the energy capital of the U.S., while ERCOT officials have defended their preparations and the decision to begin forced outages early Monday as the grid reached a breaking point.

The storms also left more than 330,000 from Virginia to Louisiana without power and about 71,000 in Oregon on Friday were still enduring a weeklong outage following a massive ice and snow storm.

The extreme weather was blamed for the deaths of at least 59 people, including a Tennessee farmer who tried to save two calves that apparently wandered into a frozen pond. A growing number of people have perished as they struggled to keep warm.

Federal Emergency Management Agency acting administrator Bob Fenton said teams in Texas were distributing fuel, water, blankets and other supplies.

"What has me most worried is making sure that people stay warm," Fenton said on "CBS This Morning," urging people without heat to go to a shelter or warming center.

In many areas, water pressure dropped after lines froze and because people left faucets dripping to prevent pipes from icing, authorities said.

As of Thursday afternoon, more than 1,000 Texas public water systems and 177 of the state's 254 counties had reported weather-related operational disruptions, affecting more than 14 million people, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Abbott urged Texas residents to shut off water to prevent more busted pipes and preserve municipal system pressure.

David Lopez said the Dallas plumbing company he works for has received more than 600 calls for service over the last week.

"It's pretty much first come, first served," said Lopez, as he and a colleague manhandled a new water heater out of their van on Friday. "Everyone's got emergencies."

Houston residents will probably have to boil tap water in the fourth-largest U.S. city until Sunday or Monday, said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Water service was restored Friday to two Houston Methodist community hospitals, but officials still were bringing in drinking water and some elective surgeries were canceled, spokeswoman Gale Smith said.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis said it was forced to switch to bottled water and bagged ice for all consumption and that staff and patients were washing with hand sanitizer and no-rinse bathing wipes. All non-urgent surgeries were postponed.

Central Arkansas Water, which services the Little Rock area, asked customers to conserve water to help protect its system as the ground began to warm and pipes thawed. The city of Hot Springs warned Thursday night that its water supply was at "critically low" levels and also asked its customers to conserve.

In Little Rock, the Museum of Discovery reported that a broken pipe flooded its building — causing extensive damage to theaters, galleries and offices.

More than 192,000 Louisiana residents — some still struggling to recover from last August's Hurricane Laura — had no water service Friday, according to the state health department.

Tens of thousands more residents remained under boil-water advisories, according to the health department.

Bulk and bottled water deliveries were planned Friday to the hardest-hit Louisiana areas with a focus on hospitals, nursing homes and dialysis centers, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said.

Edwards said he was grateful that warmer weather was predicted for Louisiana by Saturday.

"I expect that over the next several days, we will make repairs to the water systems and get things functioning as close to normal as possible," the governor said in a live event with the Washington Post.

In the community of Hackberry, near Lake Charles, Nicole Beard said her boyfriend crawled under his house to try to fix a broken water line but couldn't because he didn't have the right parts and it was too dark. She was using bottled water and sent her two daughters to another home.

"People are still just struggling over here," she said.

25 asylum-seekers who were waiting in Mexico released in U.S.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
and JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

will buy bus or plane tickets if asylum-seekers can't afford them and winter clothes if needed.

"We'll make sure they are healthy and in good shape to travel," Hopkins said in an interview.

Friday's arrivals are the first of an estimated 25,000 people with active cases in the Remain in Mexico program and several hundred who are appealing decisions. U.S. officials are warning people not to come to the U.S.-Mexico border and to register on a website that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees is launching early next week.

While the arrivals begin to return the asylum system to the way it worked for decades, there are unanswered questions, including how Central Americans who returned home will get back to the U.S.-Mexico border. It's also unclear how long it will take to work through all the cases, with the oldest going first.

Who thought this day would come?" Gomez, 36, said Wednesday in Tijuana, Mexico, at a border crossing with San Diego. "I never thought it would happen."

Across the border from Texas' Rio Grande Valley, Enda Marisol Rivera of El Salvador and her 10-year-old son have been braving below-freezing temperatures this week, snuggling under piles of donated blankets in their makeshift tent of tarps.

Their propane gas stove froze, she said. Despite the added hardship from the Arctic blast that hit Texas and northern Mexico, Rivera was in good spirits and closely watching the news.

Rivera and her son are

among about 1,000 migrants

living in the tent camp in a

sprawling park just south of

the Rio Grande in the Mexican city of Matamoros.

About 850 of them have applied for asylum and were

told to wait in Mexico for

their court dates. Many in the camp turned down offers this week to be transferred to city shelters, fearing they would lose their chance at being allowed into the United States if they didn't stay close to the border. Some have been waiting for more than two years.

Rivera was hopeful she would be allowed to come to the United States, where she could live with her sister in Los Angeles as her case wound through immigration court.

"We have faith in God that we will be allowed in," she said Wednesday. "We have already spent enough time here."

Nongovernmental organizations will play crucial roles in arranging temporary shelter and transportation once asylum-seekers enter the U.S.

"This problem was years in the making, and they're trying to find solutions, but they are dealing with things coming up in real time," said

Andrea Leiner, spokeswoman for Global Response Management, which has been providing medical care at the camp in Matamoros. "I do think we need to give a little patience and leeway to sort this out as the actors involved get the plans in place to start doing this in a safe and effective manner."

But she said everyone is also on edge, especially asylum-seekers.

"People are incredibly hopeful that this is their chance to get across, but there also is a lot of anxiety and fear that somehow if they do the wrong thing and they're not at the right place at the right time, they might miss out," Leiner said.

Biden urges allies to show democracies can 'still deliver'

By AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

rope relationship that was strained under Trump, who repeatedly questioned the value of historic alliances.

I know the past few years have strained and tested the global stage, President Joe Biden called on fellow world leaders to show together that "democracies can still deliver" as he underscored his administration's determination to quickly turn the page on Donald Trump's "America First" approach.

Biden, in a virtual address

Friday to the annual Mu-

nich Security Conference, said it was a critical time for the world's democracies to "prove that our model isn't a relic of our history."

We are in the midst of a fundamental debate about the future direction of our world," Biden said in the address just after taking part in his first meeting as president with fellow Group of Seven world leaders. That debate is "between those who argue that — given all of the challenges we face, from the fourth industrial revolution to a global pandemic — autocracy is the best way forward and those who understand that democracy is essential to meeting those challenges."

Biden made his address to a global audience as his administration has begun reversing Trump administration policies.

He said that the U.S. stands ready to rejoin talks about reentering the 2015 multilateral Iran nuclear deal abandoned by the Trump administration. The Biden administration announced Thursday its desire to reengage Iran, and it took action at the United Nations aimed at restoring policy to what it was before President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018.

Biden also spoke out about the economic and national security challenges posed by Russia and China, as well as the two-decade war in Afghanistan, where he faces a May 1 deadline to remove the remaining 2,500 U.S. troops under a Trump administration negotiated peace agreement with the Taliban.

As he underlined challenges facing the U.S. and its allies, Biden tried to make clear that he's determined to repair a U.S.-Eu-

rope and economic crises created by the coronavirus pandemic. He said the U.S. will soon begin releasing \$4 billion for an international effort to bolster the purchase and distribution of coronavirus vaccine to poor nations, a program that Trump refused to support.

Both the G-7 and the annual

security conference were

held virtually because of the

pandemic.

Biden's turn on the world stage came as the U.S. on Friday officially rejoined the Paris climate agreement, the largest international effort to curb global warming. Trump announced in June 2017 that he was pulling the U.S. out of the landmark accord, arguing that it would undermine the American economy.

Biden announced the U.S.

intention of rejoining the ac-

cord on the first day of his presidency, but he had to wait 30 days for the move to go into effect. He has said that he will take considerations about climate change into every major domestic and foreign policy decision his administration faces.

"This is a global existential crisis," Biden said.

His first foray into international summits will inevitably be perceived by some as simply an attempted course correction from Trump's agenda. The new president, however, has made clear that his domestic and foreign policy agenda won't be merely an erasure of the Trump years.

"I'm tired of talking about Donald Trump," Biden lamented earlier this week at a CNN town hall in Milwaukee.

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Facebook makes a power move in Australia – and may regret it

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
and TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writers

For years, Facebook has been in a defensive crouch amid a slew of privacy scandals, antitrust lawsuits and charges that it was letting hate speech and extremism destroy democracy. Early Thursday, though, it abruptly pivoted to take the offensive in Australia, where it lowered the boom on publishers and the government with a sudden decision to block news on its platform across the entire country.

That power play – a response to an Australian law that would compel Facebook to pay publishers for using their news stories – might easily backfire, given how concerned many governments have grown about the company's unchecked influence over society, democracy and political discourse. But it's still a startling reminder of just how much power CEO Mark Zuckerberg can wield

at the touch of a figurative button.

"Zuckerberg's flex here shows how he can disrupt global access to the news in a heartbeat," said Jennifer Grygiel, a social media expert and professor at Syracuse University. "No company should have this much influence over access to journalism."

Facebook's move means people in Australia can no longer post links to news stories on Facebook. Outside Australia, meanwhile, no one can post links to Aussie news sources such as the Sydney Morning Herald.

Facebook said the proposed law "ignores the realities" of its relationship with publishers that use its service to propel their stories across the world. Technology and media experts have also raised serious concerns. Timothy Berners-Lee, the British computer scientist known as the inventor of the World Wide Web, told an Australian Senate committee in January that the law's precedent could ul-

timately wreck the internet by requiring payment for links that have always been free.

The law hasn't gone into effect. Negotiations between the tech companies, the Australian government and the country's media giants – most notably, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. – may result in changes to the final version.

What can't be changed, though, is Facebook's dramatic, if ham-handed, attempt to force the issue. The company provided no warning of its decision to block Australian news and applied the ban so clumsily that it blocked many innocent bystanders.

"As the law does not provide a clear guidance on the definition of news content, we have taken a broad definition in order to respect the law as drafted," said Facebook spokeswoman Mari Melguizo, who added that the company would unblock any pages that were blocked by accident.

Facebook's reaction was not justified even if there are

issues with the law, including the fact that it stands to benefit media giants like News Corp., said Elizabeth Renieris, director of the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab. Facebook's show of strength, she said, is "really going to wake up regulators around the world."

"If it is not already clear, Facebook is not compatible with democracy," Rep. David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat who heads a House subcommittee that has urged antitrust action against the company, wrote on Twitter. "Threatening to bring an entire country to its knees to agree to Facebook's terms is the ultimate admission of monopoly power."

On Thursday, Democrats announced they would hold new hearings to curb online platforms and update antitrust laws.

Billions of people around the world rely on Facebook for essential information – not just news, but charity and government pages, emergen-

cy announcements and other important channels. Facebook's news blackout swept up many of these, including humanitarian organizations like Foodbank Australia and Doctors without Borders in Australia, who found their pages temporarily disabled.

The ban affected articles from large international news organization and small community newspapers or radio stations alike. Those restrictions potentially deprived many Australians of basic information on Facebook about COVID-19 or the country's fire season – from a company that bills itself as committed to building "connection and community."

Australian publishers felt a blunt impact. Analytics firm Chartbeat said the Facebook ban resulted in a 24 percent drop in overall traffic to Australian publishers by late Friday morning local time compared to 48 hours earlier.

The tech company has faced years of criticism for allowing misinformation around

politics and the coronavirus to fester on its site. Critics said they fear that stripping Australian users of legitimate news sources will only worsen that problem.

"Playing this game in Australia is going to fill peoples' feed with misinformation," Tama Leaver, an internet studies and social media expert at Curtin University in Australia, said during an interview Wednesday with Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio Perth.

But a news-free Facebook might also be a more pleasant experience for many people, said Drew Margolin, a professor of communication at Cornell University. Facebook would have been better off if it had given Australians a choice to opt out of news, he suggested. If many did, the company could have used that for leverage with the government and publishers.

"What happens when they say we're ready to turn it back on and we say please don't?" he said.

U.K. top court gives Uber drivers benefits in landmark ruling

By KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

LONDON — Uber drivers in Britain are entitled to benefits like paid holidays and minimum wage, the country's top court ruled Friday, in a decision that threatens the company's business model and holds broad implications for the gig economy.

The ruling that the drivers should be classed as "workers" and not self-employed is a big defeat for the ride-hailing giant. And it could inspire similar legal action against other companies who rely on gig workers as well as influence courts in other countries grappling with the issue, experts said.

The seven Supreme Court judges who heard the case unanimously rejected Uber's appeal against an employment tribunal ruling that two

Uber drivers were "workers" under British law.

Yaseen Aslam and James Farrar, the two drivers, cheered the outcome.

"This ruling will fundamentally re-order the gig economy and bring an end to ride exploitation of workers by means of algorithmic and contract trickery," said James Farrar said by email. The pair took Uber to the tribunal in 2016, which ruled in their favor. The decision was upheld in two rounds of appeals before it arrived at the Supreme Court.

San Francisco-based Uber, which has 65,000 active drivers and 5 million regular users in the U.K., had argued that Aslam and Farrar were independent contractors. The company said it respected the court's decision, which it argued focused on a small number of drivers who used the Uber app in 2016.

"Since then we have made some significant changes to our business, guided by drivers every step of the way," Jamie Heywood, Uber's regional general manager for Northern and Eastern Europe, said in a statement. "These include giving even more control over how they earn and providing new protections like free insurance in case of sickness or injury."

Heywood said the company would consult with its U.K. drivers to understand the changes they want.

The ruling clarified that drivers are considered to be on the job when they are logged in to the Uber app in their territory and ready and willing to accept rides, which could be used to calculate minimum wage and holiday pay. Uber had argued that drivers were only working when they were making a journey with a

paying passenger. The case is now expected to return to the employment tribunal for decisions on compensation over lost pay for about two dozen drivers involved in the original claim. Another 2,000 drivers' cases had been stayed pending the decision. Drivers could be entitled to an average of \$16,800, estimated law firm Leigh Day, which is representing drivers.

Uber driver Conrad Delphine looked forward to getting paid time off after years of working without holiday or sick pay.

"I am very pleased. It means I can go on holiday without having to worry about how to pay for it," Delphine said. "Things have been worse because of coronavirus. If we catch the virus we should be entitled to sick pay. It's about time we had some decent pay and

conditions."

Uber and other app-based ride-hailing services avoided a similar attempt in California to classify drivers as employees eligible for benefits and job protections. The companies bankrolled Proposition 22, a ballot measure exempting them from the state's gig-economy laws by keeping drivers classified as independent contractors able to set their own hours. Voters approved it in November.

The British judges on Friday cited a number of factors in their decision: Uber sets fares and contract terms and penalizes drivers who reject or cancel rides. It also uses passenger ratings to control drivers and minimizes communications between drivers and passengers, which results in the service being "very tightly defined and controlled by Uber."

"Drivers are in a position of subordination and dependency to Uber," with little ability to improve their economic position and the only way to increase their earnings is by "working longer hours while constantly meeting Uber's measures of performance," said judge George Leggatt, as he read out a summary of the ruling on a court livestream.

Uber said some features cited in the ruling no longer exist, noting that since 2017 drivers face no repercussion for rejecting multiple consecutive trips.

Providing more benefits for its drivers will likely increase costs for Uber, which already was struggling to make a profit and had previously run into regulatory trouble in London, where authorities had sought to revoke its license. The changes could ultimately push up fares for riders, experts say.

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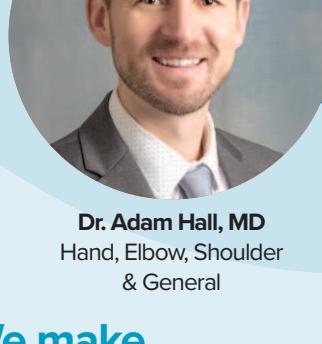
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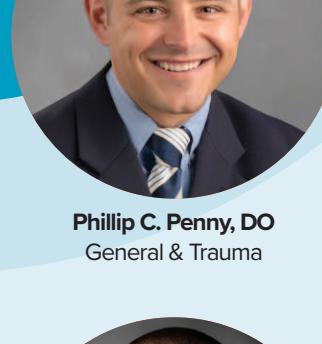
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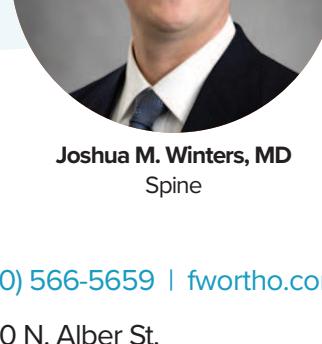
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MU turns in strong showing on the road

Spartans competed well, winning 13 of 22 matchups on the day

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University wrestling team was back in action on Saturday, Feb. 13. The Black and Gold traveled to Ohio on Saturday afternoon to compete against the Defiance College Yellow Jackets and the Ohio

Wesleyan Battling Bishops.

MU had a strong showing, winning 13 of 22 matchups on the day.

Josh Stephenson, from Munckie and Yorktown High School, earned a pair of victories at 125-pounds, scoring a 21-4 tech fall against Defiance's Brent Eicher and a fall against Ohio Wesleyan's Donovan Ortiz.

Elijah Phillips, Centerville, also picked up a pair of victories on Saturday afternoon. Phillips battled to an 11-6 decision over

OWU's Ryan McElwee in the 141-pound weight class. Phillips also wrestled up a weight class, earning a 12-3 major decision over OWU's Max Beard.

Tyler Leonhard, from Portland and Jay County High School, went a perfect 2-0 on the day. Leonhard topped Ohio Wesleyan's Ethan Laws by a 10-4 decision at 165-pounds. Tyler then pinned OWU's Christian Tesnow in a matchup at 184-pounds. Leonhard has won all six of his bouts this season.

Matt Neff, from LaPorte, defeated Kerington Martin of Defiance College by a 7-1 decision at 174-pounds. Neff would later pin Jaret Lowry of Ohio Wesleyan in his second matchup of the day.

Five other Spartans would go on to win at least one of their bouts on Saturday: Charlie O'Connor, Zak Fowler, Alexander Searfoss, Alex Gronkiewicz and Kyle Young.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Colts trade for Eagles QB Wentz

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz helped steer the Philadelphia Eagles to the franchise's only Super Bowl title and later received the richest contract in team history.

He's already gone before that deal even kicked in.

The Eagles agreed to trade Wentz to the Indianapolis Colts, according to a person familiar with the deal. Philadelphia receives a third-round pick in this year's draft and a conditional second-round pick in 2022 that can turn into a first-round pick if Wentz plays 75 percent of the snaps this year or 70 percent and the Colts make the playoffs.

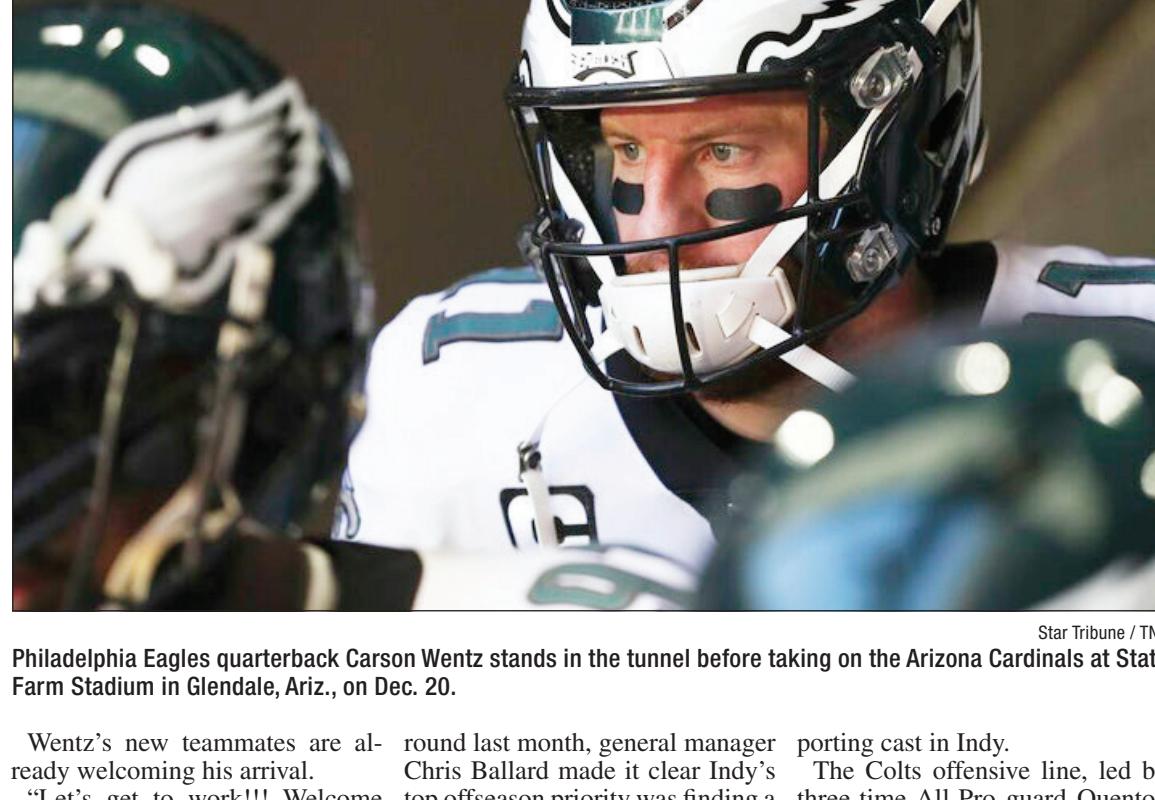
The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the deal hasn't been announced.

Wentz is coming off the worst season of his five-year career and was benched for rookie Jalen Hurts after 12 games. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017 when he led the Eagles to an 11-2 record before a knee injury ended his season and Philadelphia went on to win the Super Bowl.

The deal reunites Wentz with Colts coach Frank Reich, who served as Philadelphia's offensive coordinator his first two seasons in the league. Press Taylor, an offensive assistant coach with the Eagles during Wentz's tenure, also has joined Reich's staff.

The Colts are turning to their fourth starting quarterback in Reich's four years. Andrew Luck retired abruptly before the 2019 season and Jacoby Brissett took over. Philip Rivers led the team to the playoffs in his only season in Indianapolis in 2020. After Rivers retired, Wentz became an ideal replacement for the team.

Brissett is about to become a free agent and the only other quarterback on the roster is Jacob Eason, who never took a snap last season as a rookie.



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz stands in the tunnel before taking on the Arizona Cardinals at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., on Dec. 20.

Wentz's new teammates are already welcoming his arrival.

"Let's get to work!!! Welcome to Indy! Can't wait to see what the future holds in the 317," two-time All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard wrote on his social media account, citing the city's area code.

Receiver Parris Campbell was even more succinct on Twitter: "LETS WORK!!"

Wentz is entering the first season of a four-year, \$128 million contract extension he signed in June 2019. The Eagles will absorb a significant salary cap hit of \$33.8 million in dead money on their 2021 cap.

Indy started the offseason with the second-most room under the projected cap.

The Colts are betting Wentz will rebound with a new team, which looks like a solid fit for the former North Dakota State star. After losing at Buffalo in the wild-card

round last month, general manager Chris Ballard made it clear Indy's top offseason priority was finding a long-term solution at quarterback.

Some speculated about what the Colts would do in free agency or potentially move up in the draft. But Ballard was reticent about being pressured into a rash decision, giving away too many picks or overpaying.

"We get the importance of the quarterback position but the difference between just taking one

and taking the right one is the key in our minds," Ballard said. "It's something we want to get fixed. Look, when you think about two of the top franchise quarterbacks since coming to Indianapolis — Peyton Manning and Andrew Luck — they were No. 1 picks. I promise you if we're picking No. 1, I'm not going to be here talking about it."

Wentz also will have a better sup-

porting cast in Indy.

The Colts offensive line, led by three-time All-Pro guard Quenton Nelson and center Ryan Kelly, is one of the league's top units. Jonathan Taylor became the fifth rookie in Colts history to top the 1,000-yard mark and Indy has a promising group of young receivers and tight ends still under contract.

Four-time Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton and starting running back Marlon Mack both could become free agents.

And Ballard believes Reich is a master of quarterback development.

"I think Frank is outstanding, I think he's proven it," Ballard said during his season-ending news conference. "In Philly, he did a really good job with their young quarterback. Here, he's had three different quarterbacks and he's done well with all three."

Brohm hopes new coaches will help Boilermakers bounce back

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

Purdue coach Jeff Brohm didn't like how his defense performed last season, so he shook it up.

He fired defensive coordinator Bob Diaco after one season, hired three new assistants and got more involved in the defensive meetings. Now it's time to find out how much has changed.

On Friday, the Boilermakers will begin installing their revamped defense when they hold the first of 15 scheduled spring practices.

"I felt like we weren't going in the direction I wanted to and I wanted to put a stop to that right away," Brohm said Thursday. "I want to see us go out there and compete. I want us to play aggressive, physical and get after the quarterback and I want a defense that has the identity I believe in."

The Boilermakers (2-4) have until March 19 to start building the momentum, and it's not just the defensive style that will look different.

Aidan O'Connell, last year's opening day starter at quarterback, has only been cleared for limited work after having season-ending foot surgery in December. That means Jack Plummer, the starter in 2019, will take the bulk of the snaps.

And the pairing of all-conference defensive end George Karlaftis with his younger brother, Yanni, the highly-touted outside linebacker from just a few miles down the road, has been put on

hold because of a hamstring injury. Yanni Karlaftis suffered the injury in high school and Brohm said he aggravated it recently.

But their absences won't slow down what Brohm hopes to accomplish defensively.

He hired Brad Lambert, the former Charlotte head coach and defensive coordinator at Marshall, to work with Anthony Poindexter as co-defensive coordinators.

Brohm brought back Mark Hagen, the former Purdue and Indiana assistant, who spent last season as the defensive line coach at Texas, and added former Florida safeties coach Ron English. Lambert will work with linebackers, English with the secondary and Hagen with the linemen.

All three have been college coordinators and all three have worked closely with Brohm to create a defense desperately in need of change after finishing last season with five sacks and seven takeaways. It also allowed at least 20 points in all six games and 27 or more in the final four — all losses.

Purdue also didn't play in bowl games either of the past two seasons, all of which has Brohm looking for a fix.

"I've been heavily involved (with the defense) since the season's been over," Brohm said. "We are going to challenge things, we are going to gamble some. I want our guys to make plays, get turnovers, not be afraid to make mistakes and to dictate what happens on that side of the field."

Bauer-less Reds forced to fall back on the familiar for rotation

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

The Cincinnati Reds will go into the 2021 season without two of last year's most important pitchers — National League Cy Young Award winner Trevor Bauer and closer Raisel Iglesias.

How manager David Bell will work around those blockbuster departures is the overriding question as his pitchers begin throwing this week during spring training. Without major offseason additions, the cost-conscious Reds are going to have to count on getting more out of some of the guys who have been around a while.

Bell is fine with that. Enthusiastic, even.

"We see our rotation as a strength," he said. "Obviously we lost Trevor, and we all know what a significant loss that is, but to be able to say our rotation is still a strength is pretty impressive, with the depth that we have."

At the front of the Cincinnati staff will be some familiar names: 2020 opening-day starter Sonny Gray (5-3, 3.70 ERA) and Luis Castillo (4-6, 3.21), who started the opener in 2019. With Anthony DeSclafani also moving on, Tyler Mahle (2-2, 3.59) and Wade Miley (0-3, 5.65) are expected to line up behind them.

Right-hander Michael Lorenzen (3-1, 4.28) — a reliever in recent years who was effective as a spot starter at the end of last season — will get a chance to break into the

rotation, Bell said. Right-hander Tejay Antone (2.80, 45 strikeouts in 35 1/3 innings) was too good last year to not get a look as a potential starter.

"I prepared as a starter," Antone said this week. "There's an opportunity for me to have that job, and I'm going to do my best to take it."

Bell said he anticipates going with a starting staff of five instead of moving to six, as is the trend with some MLB teams.

"Even if we go into the season with a five-man rotation, we have guys that can step in, guys that can pitch multiple innings out of the bullpen," Bell said. "So we're in a good situation with our rotation, and the more we can build guys up, the more options we'll have as we get closer to the season."

Traded to Cincinnati as part of a three-team deal in midseason 2019, Bauer was terrific in the pandemic-shortened season, parlaying a 1.73 ERA and 100 strikeouts in 73 innings into a three-year, \$102 million contract with the reigning World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers. The Reds traded Iglesias and his \$9 million salary to the Los Angeles Angels for Noe Ramirez, who will compete for a role in the bullpen.

A couple of players who emerged as key contributors in last season's bullpen, Lucas Sims and Amir Garrett, have made it clear they covet the closer's job,

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA will allow a limited number of fans to attend all rounds of next month's men's basketball tournament in Indiana.

The governing body said Friday it is permitting 25 percent capacity at the venues to allow for social distancing. That figure will include all participants and essential staff along with the family members of team players and coaches.

Attendees must wear face coverings, and cleaning and disinfecting efforts will be emphasized at venues in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols.

The NCAA said in its statement it acted in conjunction with state and local health officials. NCAA chief medical officer Brian Hainline said the decision also followed conversations with the organization's medical advisory group and will rely on testing and monitoring services from the Indiana University Health system.

"The No. 1 priority for decisions around the tournament continues to be the safety and well-being of everyone participating in the event," Hainline said.

The NCAA had previously announced the 68-team tournament will be played entirely in Indiana because of the pandemic, with most games in Indianapolis. The tournament will begin with First Four games on March 18 at home arenas for Big Ten Conference schools Purdue and Indiana, with those venues located about a one-hour drive — in opposite directions — from downtown Indianapolis.

At Indiana, the school said it will allow up to 500 fans for tournament games at Assembly Hall with some seats reserved for local medical workers and first responders who have been vaccinated.

The Final Four takes place in Indianapolis on April 3. The national championship game follows two days later.

which is open for the first time since Iglesias established himself there in 2016.

Right-hander Sims finished with a 2.45 ERA with 34 strikeouts in 25 2/3 innings. Left-hander Garrett's ERA was identical, and he struck out 26 in 18 1/3 innings.

"You want to be the guy," said Sims, who was hampered by an offseason elbow issue but doesn't expect it to delay his development this spring. "You know, if you're in the rotation, you want to be an ace. And if you're in the bullpen, you want to be that back end to lock it down. I saw (Iglesias leaving) as an opportunity to go out there and do what I'm capable of and trying to grab that."

Said Garrett: "You guys know where I want to be, (Bell) knows where I want to be, the front office knows where I want to be. All that will work out later in the spring."

The wild card might be 34-year-old Sean Doolittle, the former Washington Nationals closer signed by the Reds to a one-year, \$1.5 million contract to add some experience and another lefty to the back end of the bullpen. After a disappointing 2020 season, Doolittle will get a chance to regain the form he had with the Nationals from 2017 to 2019, when he had 75 saves.

Position players report to spring training in Goodyear, Arizona, on Sunday, with the first full team workout Monday. The Reds open the regular season April 1 against St. Louis.

Logano wants peace at Penske following Daytona 500 crash

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A truce has yet to be called in the Team Penske camp amid friction following the last lap Daytona 500 crash between teammates Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski.

Logano was leading Keselowski when Keselowski pulled out to attempt a race-winning pass, a move that caused contact that triggered a fiery eight-car wreck. Three of the cars involved were Fords fielded by Penske.

Logano had yet to speak to Keselowski by Friday — he said “it’s probably best to cool your jets a little bit before the conversation happens” — but planned to talk before the two raced again for the sake of the Penske organization. The two race Sunday on the road course at Daytona.

“The goal is to move on and not say, ‘You raced me hard, so I’m going to race you hard’ and now we’re beating the doors off of each other every week and it grows and grows and grows,” Logano said. “You can’t seek revenge or just, ‘Well, you made my life hard, so I’m going to make your life hard.’ That’s childish. We’re adults.”

“If you do that, it’s the most selfish thing you can do because you’re not just hurting yourself or hurting him, you’re hurting all the people that work on that car and what did they do to you?”

Keselowski was visibly frustrated following the crash and heaved his helmet at his wrecked car. He was adamant after the race that he was not at fault for the collision.

“I don’t feel like I made a mistake, but I can’t drive everybody else’s car, so frustrating,” he said.

Logano did not accept culpability.

“I don’t think anyone did anything wrong,” he said. “Everyone is going to have different perspectives and I think that’s probably where we’re going to be. To me, the biggest heartbreak of this whole thing is that there are 400 people at Team Penske asking where their Daytona 500 bonus is and it’s up



The Joey Logano-Brad Keselowski crash triggered a fiery chain of events on the final lap of the Daytona 500 on Monday.

Nigel Cook / News-Journal / TNS

in a ball of flames up in turn three.”

Three-time Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin bristled at Logano’s deflection.

He noted Logano could have guaranteed the organization a Daytona 500 victory if he’d allowed Keselowski to pull alongside him and the two Penske cars together would have blocked the track to other competitors as the teammates raced each other to the finish line.

“Say huh?” Hamlin posted to Twitter. “Ya k now best way to guarantee a Penske win? If the 2 got beside him then they race to the line to see which one wins.”

Hamlin and Logano were teammates for five years at Joe Gibbs Racing and have previously feuded.

The Daytona crash belied Roger Penske’s edict that his drivers are permitted to race one another hard so long as they don’t wreck. Not only did they fail at Daytona, but the crash destroyed a third Penske car, driven by rookie Austin Cindric, for an overall disastrous race for Penske.

Ryan Blaney had been involved in a race-ending crash 14 laps in, so all four Penske cars were destroyed.

Cindric said “that is a great question” when asked for his understanding on how

the four-car Penske fleet was supposed to race each other at Daytona.

“If we are a Penske 1-2-3, I know my job and my job going into the weekend was to make sure that one of us wins the race,” Cindric said.

“We have team meetings. We have strategy meetings. I think we all understand what is at stake. I think there is a great understanding of what the expectations are.”

Chase Elliott, the reigning Cup Series champion, said it makes no difference that it was teammates racing each other. He also noted that Hamlin in 2020 won his third 500 “because he didn’t throw a massive block.”

“I don’t think it has anything to do with the team you drive for; I think it has to do with the individual and how that person races,” Elliott said.

Elliott had his own communion at Daytona in the exhibition Busch Clash when he crashed good friend Blaney as they raced for the victory on the road course. Neither won the race.

“We’ve talked. We’re fine. It doesn’t fix his race car from last weekend and it certainly doesn’t fix his result, and I understand that,” Elliott said.

“I hate it as much as he does.

But it’s racing and we’re racing for wins. That’s a great

problem to have.”

It remains to be seen how Keselowski chooses to work with Logano going forward. He did not comment Friday on Logano’s push for the teammates to move on, but Keselowski did post a photo on social media that showed damage to equipment in his car from the fire started in the crash.

Keselowski, the 2012 Cup champion but winless in 12 Daytona 500s, is in a contract year with Penske and probably can’t afford to feud with his teammate. Logano, also a Cup champion and the 2015 Daytona 500 winner, doesn’t have the same job security concerns.

Logano has been part of several skirmishes with various drivers over the years. The conflict has often escalated with rivals complaining Logano rarely takes responsibility and allows feuds to fester.

This time, Logano is pushing for a clean slate. He likened a problem with Keselowski to a marriage, where both sides must come to a resolution and move forward.

“It’s kind of the situation here, where I will be forced and he will be forced to work with me,” Logano said. “We’re still teammates. We will have to figure this out.”

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE							
Conference	All Games	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Virginia	11 2 .846	15	4	.789			
Florida St.	8 2 .800	12	3	.800			
Virginia Tech	8 3 .727	14	4	.778			
Louisville	6 3 .667	11	4	.733			
Clemson	7 5 .583	13	7	.650			
North Carolina	7 5 .583	13	7	.650			
Syracuse	6 5 .545	12	6	.667			
Duke	7 6 .538	9	8	.529			
Georgia Tech	6 5 .500	10	8	.556			
Notre Dame	7 4 .462	9	10	.474			
Pittsburgh	5 7 .417	9	8	.529			
NC State	5 8 .385	9	9	.500			
Wake Forest	3 10 .231	6	10	.375			
Miami	3 11 .214	7	12	.368			
Boston College	1 9 .100	3	13	.188			

Saturday's Games

Georgia Tech at Miami, Noon

Notre Dame at Syracuse, 2 p.m.

NC State at Wake Forest, 2 p.m.

Florida St. at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.

Louisville at North Carolina, 6 p.m.

Virginia at Duke, 8 p.m.

Virginia Tech at Florida St., ppd.

Sunday's Games

Clemson at Pittsburgh, ppd.

Monday's Games

Chicago at Houston, 8 p.m.

Memphis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.

Miami at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m.

Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

San Antonio at Indiana, ppd.

Tuesday's Games

Florida at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.

Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 8 p.m.

Sacramento at Milwaukee, 9 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Chicago at Houston, 8 p.m.

Memphis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.

Miami at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m.

Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

San Antonio at Indiana, ppd.

Thursday's Games

Chicago at Houston, 8 p.m.

Memphis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.

Miami at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m.

Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

San Antonio at Indiana, ppd.

Friday's Games

Chicago at Carolina, 7 p.m.

Florida at Detroit, 8 p.m.

Edmonton at Calgary, 8 p.m.

Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Calgary at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at Calgary, 8 p.m.

Ottawa at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Toronto at Ottawa, 8 p.m.

Montreal at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Edmonton at Calgary, 8 p.m.

Winnipeg at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Calgary at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at Calgary, 8 p.m.

North Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Boston 15 10 3 2 22 44 33

Philadelphia 14 8 3 1 19 48 44

Washington 15 8 4 3 19 53 53

N.Y. Islanders 16 8 5 3 19 39 38

Pittsburgh 15 8 6 1 17 48 51

New Jersey 11 6 3 2 14 31 30

N.Y. Rangers 15 5 7 3 13 36 41

Buffalo 13 4 7 2 10 32 41

Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Florida 14 10 2 2 22 48 43

Chicago 18 9 5 4 22 52 51

Tampa Bay 14 10 3 1 21 54 32

Carolina 14 10 3 1 21 53 40

Columbus 18 8 6 4 20 53 60

Dallas 12 5 3 4 14 40 34

Nashville 16 6 10 0 12 36 55

Detroit 18 4 11 3 11 35 56

West Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

St. Louis 17 10 5 2 22 55 51

Vegas 14 10 3 1 21 43 31

Colorado 13 8 4 1 17 41 27

Arizona 16 7 6 3 17 42 45

Los Angeles 15 6 6 3 15 47 46

Anaheim 17 6 8 3 15 33 45

Minnesota 13 7 6 0 14 33 35

San Jose 15 6 7 2 14 40 54

North Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Toronto 18 13 3 2 28 67 48

LIFESTYLES



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

A very Swiss good morning

I had my first bircher muesli in Switzerland, where it's a breakfast staple. I was at a breakfast buffet, and a large bowl of what appeared to be a thick and chunky porridge was presented in

the center of the table. At first glance, I was unimpressed, but at the prompting of my Swiss friend, I gave it a try. It was fresh, bright and creamy, chock-full of fruit and nuts, and not at all stodgy. Not only did it feel healthy to eat, but it was downright delicious.

Bircher muesli is essentially overnight oats. It's a practical and healthy do-ahead meal, reflecting marvelous Swiss sensibilities. A blend of oats and milk or yogurt are muddled together and refrigerated overnight. The next morning, you thin the mixture with more yogurt or milk and fold in fruit and nuts. The result is a nutritious and tasty breakfast that will

energize and propel you through the day – or up an alpine mountain, depending on where you sit.

Bircher muesli is named for Maximilian Birch-Benner, a Swiss physician who created this concoction in the early 1900s as a healthy breakfast alternative. The original recipe included oats, grated apple, dried fruit and condensed milk (fresh milk was not easily available at the time). Since then, myriad variations have evolved. The key is to combine a mixture of oats with a liquid ingredient, such as apple juice, dairy (or nondairy) milk, cream or yogurt, and stash in the refrigerator where it will rehydrate, bloom and develop flavor overnight.

Before serving, additional ingredients such as grated or chopped fruit, nuts, fresh berries, honey or lemon may be added. If you are feeling extra indulgent, a dollop of whipped cream can be folded into the mix. (This is what I call the I-am-on-holiday ingredient.)

As with granolas and oat-

meal, you can easily riff on the ingredients, providing you adhere to the oats-to-liquid ratio. This basic recipe includes suggested additions and substitutions.

Bircher Muesli
Active Time: 10 minutes
Total Time: 10 minutes plus
refrigerating time
Yield: Serves 2

1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats

1/2 cup apple juice

1/2 cup plain whole milk yogurt, preferably European-style

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 to 2 apples, cored and grated (with skin)

1/4 cup raisins, divided

1/4 cup chopped almonds, divided

Maple syrup or honey for drizzling (optional)

Shaved unsweetened coconut for garnish

Mix the oats, apple juice, yogurt and cinnamon in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight. The mixture will become quite thick.

When ready to serve, stir in the grated apple, half of

the raisins and half of the almonds. Thin the muesli with additional yogurt or milk to your desired consistency. (If you are on holiday, this is when you fold in the whipped cream.)

Divide between serving bowls. Drizzle with a little maple syrup, if using, and garnish with the remaining nuts, raisins and the coconut.

Cranberry Orange Option:

Substitute vanilla or honey yogurt for the plain yogurt; orange juice for the apple juice; walnuts for the almonds; dried cranberries for the raisins. Add 1/4 teaspoon finely grated orange zest.

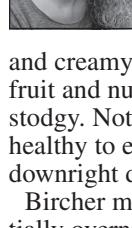
Pear Cardamom Option:

Substitute grated pear for the apple; ground cardamom for the cinnamon; golden raisins for the raisins. Add 1/4 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest. Garnish with minced crystallized ginger.

Optional Toppings:

Sliced fruit or fresh berries
Pomegranate seeds
Goji berries
Chia seeds

**Lynda
Balslev**



The lawyer was stuck as a cat. The video circulating recently of a lawyer stuck with a Zoom filter of a cat was one of the latest things making us laugh. Whether we're enjoying cute animal videos or quick comedian bits, in a year that has included many layers of stress, a brief laugh can be vital.

"It is a break and a distraction," said Jocelyn Carter, an associate professor of psychology in DePaul University's College of Science and Health. "Our body really likes it when we take breaks to laugh or even just to breathe or sit in a different way."

She herself shared the cat video among her family.

"One of the things that

made it relatable is everyone is on Zoom all the time," she said.

"It activates a lot of different touch points that we could all relate to, and so the juxtaposition of the cat with the people doing their normal work just made us realize how ridiculous this situation is that we are all in."

Since our bodies and minds do adapt to situations, it can be easy to miscalculate how much stress these unprecedented circumstances can create, she noted.

On top of an almost year-long pandemic, there have been prominent examples of police brutality and racial injustice, discrimination against Asians, election stress and coronavirus-related parenting struggles, she said.

"I think we forget that,"

she said. "We're pretty good at adapting to hard things, but we have just had layers and layers of them."

By this time, she said, most people have developed coping strategies. "I think we also probably aren't aware of the toll that all of this adaptation has taken on our bodies and our minds and our mental health."

While under stress, our bodies ramp up production of hormones that help us respond. But it's helpful to give the body a reminder to not constantly hold onto a chronic stress response, Carter said.

A funny or silly video is a reminder that even things that seem stressful – a mistake in an important meeting – can turn out OK.

"We can't pay attention to everything all at the same time all at the same level of

focus," she said. "Laughing or engaging in other activities that are pleasurable help actually give the body a feedback system that it's OK to relax and it's OK to recover."

So watch more videos. Plan breaks in your day for a few breaths, or a few laughs.

And use the videos as a way to socially interact, she suggested. Most of us are unable to see our friends or colleagues regularly. Setting up a phone or video chat might feel like more unwanted screen time.

But a text with a funny video or meme might be the perfect quick hit of friendship.

"Reach out to someone in your life and share that with them, and that'll help you, and that'll help them," she said.

Another reason not to opt for a tax refund loan: It may delay your next stimulus payment

This is the year to get your taxes done early. With the tax season already delayed, the faster you file electronically and elect direct deposit, the sooner you will get your refund.

But for many people, "soon" is not soon enough.

Millions of people end up forking over more fees for two types of tax products that allow them to get their money faster or delay paying tax preparation costs

upfront – a refund advance loan (RAL) or a refund anticipation check (RAC), also known as a refund transfer.

Tempting though they sound, these add-on tax preparation products are a bad deal.

"In a year of crisis where those with the least have been impacted the most by the pandemic, this money is more critical than ever," Michael Best, a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center

(NCLC) and co-author of a new report on how the 2021 tax season will impact vulnerable taxpay- ers, said in an email.

A refund advance loan, which may also be referred to as a refund anticipation loan, does just what its name implies. People take out a loan backed by the refund they are due from the IRS. Typically, to qualify for an RAL, filers have their tax preparation provider e-file their returns. A temporary bank account is set up by the tax preparer. The refund is then deposited directly into that account.

A refund anticipation check allows people to delay paying for their tax preparation. The fee for an RAC and any other charges are deducted from your refund before you receive the money. The balance of the refund is then provided to the taxpayer by direct deposit, check or a prepaid debit card. RAC fees typically range from \$30 to \$40, according to the NCLC report, which was released last week.

Looking at just the RAC fee, it may seem reasonable, especially if you don't have to pay the cost of your tax preparation upfront. But paying \$40 to defer a tax preparation fee of \$300 for just three weeks is equivalent to paying an annual rate of 232 percent for what amounts to a short-term loan, said Chi Chi Wu, a staff attorney at NCLC, in an interview.

RALs have had an awful history of onerous charges. In the past, the refund loan products featured fees that translated into triple-digit annual percentage rates. Under complaints from consumer groups, many in the industry reinvented the product, offering refund loans with no fees or interest. However, preparers end up recouping the cost of the loans in other ways, Wu said.

Lenders charge preparers a fee for each approved RAL, which gives preparers an incentive to upsell other services or tack on extra costs, such as a fee to file electronically, Wu said. Want the preparer to send your refund by check? That'll be \$25.

And if you end up paying interest on an RAL, disclosed interest rates are up to 39.95 percent, according to the NCLC report.

In 2019, taxpayers took out about 2 million refund advance loans and 21 million refund anticipation checks.

"Consumers may not understand that choosing a RAC does not deliver the refund more quickly. Instead, it basically works as a short-term loan of the tax return preparation fee by deferring payment of that fee until the refund arrives," said the NCLC report, which warns about the cost of impatience.

Neither an RAL nor an RAC is really necessary. Although many people are still waiting for their 2019 refunds because of coronavirus-related processing delays, if you file your return electronically and elect direct deposit, you can get your refund in about three weeks, according to the IRS.

Here's another reason to steer clear of refund products, especially with a new round of stimulus payments possibly on the way: Millions of people who filed their taxes via H&R Block, TurboTax and other services faced delays in getting their money during the first and second round of stimulus payments because the IRS sent the money to the wrong account. The agency had the temporary bank account information for taxpayers who received a refund advance loan or had the fee for tax preparation taken out of their tax refund.

Perhaps a third time will be the charm and there won't be any glitches for people who use tax preparation products. But if you're anxious to get your money, eliminate the middle man.

"If you want to make sure you get that stimulus payment, use direct deposit. You put your own bank account on your tax return, Wu said. "That way, the IRS has your bank account information."

Understandably, preparing your own return can be intimidating. You may not feel capable of doing it yourself, so you hire someone to file it for you. But count all the costs of the preparation services.

Or save money and look for free help. The IRS's "Free File" program offers assistance to taxpayers who have a 2020 adjusted gross income of \$72,000 or less. Go to IRS.gov/freefile. Low- and middle-income taxpayers can avoid fees altogether by using one of several free alternatives for tax return preparation and filing services, Wu pointed out.

There's also the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free filing to people who have disabilities, are not proficient in English or earn an income below \$57,000. The IRS's Tax Counseling for the Elderly program provides free tax help, as well. The AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program offers assistance at no cost to anyone who cannot afford a tax preparation service. You can find local Tax-Aide site at taxaid.aarpfoundation.org/request-help. AARP's service also has volunteers who can coach you through filing your taxes using your own computer while screen-sharing.

The push for the tax products is enticing. But don't rush for your refund and end up giving away the money you need.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingleM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingle). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible. Please also note comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

Story of wrongful conviction is shared without permission

DEAR ABBY: I'm a gay man in my late 40s, partnered with a man in his late 50s. There are a lot of issues from my past that I try hard to move beyond and let go of. I was wrongly accused and convicted of a crime I didn't commit, for which I was sentenced to life in prison.

Dear Abby



I sat in prison seven years before I was able to prove my innocence and regain my freedom. Even then, I was forced to accept certain requirements to keep my freedom, regardless of being proven innocent. Unfortunately, I'm finding it difficult because my partner keeps sharing my story with people who are complete strangers to me. When they meet me, the first words out of their mouths are things like: "You poor man, I'm so sorry," or "Wow, I can't believe you went through that," and "Man, you must be a strong person to have gotten through that."

How do I move past this, if he keeps telling people a story that is NOT his to tell, but mine to disclose if I choose to do so? The shame and embarrassment of facing this trauma of my past on a regular basis isn't healthy for me. How can I get him to understand that he needs to stop doing it?

I'm afraid to say anything to him about it. He dismisses my feelings most of the time when I bring up things he does that upset me.

I love this man with all of my heart. He was one of only two people who stood by me during my trauma and made it possible to prove my innocence. He was also my "first." My love for him has only grown over the years, but this issue of my story being revealed has to stop. — Frustrated In The Midwest

DEAR FRUSTRATED: You not only have to speak up, but you also have to be heard. That your much older partner dismisses your feelings is controlling and condescending. He has no right to disclose VERY personal information about you with strangers.

You wrote that this is your first relationship. If this continues, it may not be your last. Present it to your partner in exactly these terms. Couples counseling may save your relationship, but only if the balance of power is adjusted.

DEAR ABBY: I was friends with my guy before getting into a relationship with him seven years ago. The problem is, I feel like we are not growing. He is still living with his mom, we have no plans for the future, etc.

At least once a year, I ask him how he views our relationship, but I only get the same response that things are fine the way they are. I have now started back in college while maintaining a full-time job, but I'm so frustrated I feel like giving up on the relationship and moving on. I'm actually stuck between a breakup and keeping a friendship. Any advice? — Uncertain In Alabama

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Of course your "guy" thinks things are fine the way they are. They are — for him. I'm delighted you decided to return to college and get your degree. By doing so, you are taking control of your life, which is moving in the right direction.

Please understand that you may not only outgrow the relationship, but also this young man. By all means, keep him as a friend if you can. Be a role model if he's able to learn from your example, but continue to broaden your horizons.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Kept secret
- 4 Join wood
- 8 Hepburn nickname
- 12 Citrus drink
- 13 Actor Alan
- 14 Type of mitt
- 15 Attack word
- 16 Loud noise
- 17 Well-ventilated
- 18 Foot, slangily
- 20 Yellow fruit
- 22 Posh hotel lobbies
- 23 Is, to Fritz
- 24 Dinosaur's place
- 28 A Gershwin
- 31 LP player (hyph.)
- 34 Starfish part
- 35 Male hog
- 36 Battery chemical
- 37 Enjoy a fine brandy
- 38 Part of a.m.
- 39 Oilers org.
- 40 Treasure holders
- 42 "Te Ching"

DOWN

- 1 "la vista!"
- 2 Blockhead
- 3 Wallpaper, etc.
- 4 Popular cruise stop
- 5 Join forces
- 6 Mont. neighbor
- 7 Ewe's offspring
- 8 Zen riddles
- 9 Pilot's field
- 10 Gull cousin
- 11 New Age singer
- 19 Bashful
- 21 Draw a bead on
- 25 Cummerbund
- 26 Cleveland's waters
- 27 Refs' cousins
- 29 Maze runner
- 30 "we having fun yet?"
- 31 "Star Wars" rogue
- 32, to Wolfgang
- 33 Strained
- 35 Sink
- 40 Blimp title
- 41 Nice and warm
- 43 Prince Ann's mother
- 45 Prom vehicles
- 46 Go to the polis
- 47 "Divine Comedy" poet
- 48 Put up a notice
- 49 Water, in Tijuana
- 50 "Waterloo" pop group
- 51 Teen hangout
- 54 Hold up

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	8	7	2	5	3	1	4	6
4	5	2	8	1	6	7	9	3
1	3	6	9	4	7	2	8	5
7	2	3	4	9	5	6	1	8
6	9	1	7	8	2	3	5	4
5	4	8	6	3	1	9	2	7
8	1	9	3	7	4	5	6	2
3	6	4	5	2	9	8	7	1
2	7	5	1	6	8	4	3	9

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Ans. here: 

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HONEY DWELL MANAGE THWART

Answer: An instrument's sounds can be written down using lines and symbols to — DENOTE THEM

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WE OFFER:

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• Paid vacations

• Paid holidays

• Paid uniforms

APPLY IN PERSON @ 210 N MAIN ST JONESBORO IN OR EMAIL

RESUME TO: pagesdiesel@yahoo.com

The City of Marion will be accepting applications through Friday, February 26th for the following position:

Transportation is seeking applicants for a part-time bus driver position.

Job responsibilities: Operates a bus along a predetermined route in a safe, timely, and courteous manner for the conveyance of passengers.

Qualifications: Must possess valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with appropriate endorsements (or ability to obtain one within six (6) months); must be a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of age; must have no more than two (2) points on driving record within past two (2) years; must have at least one (1) year of experience driving a manual transmission vehicle; must pass Department of Transportation physical examination and drug screen.

To apply: Mail application (available at City Hall in the Controller's Office or on our website at www.cityofmarion.in.gov) to City of Marion, Attn: Human Resources, 301 S. Branson St., Marion, IN 46952.

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Wabash County Indiana

Beginning 10:00 AM, April 14, 2021 Local Time

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WABASH COUNTY

Pursuant to the laws of the Indiana General Assembly and by resolution of the Wabash County Commissioners, notice is hereby given that the following described tracts or items of real property are listed for sale for delinquent taxes and / or special assessments.

The minimum sale prices listed below are less than the minimum sale prices when offered in the immediately preceding county tax sale held under Section 5 of IC 6-1-1-24 and include all fees and expenses of the county directly attributable to the Commissioners' Certificate Sale. The Wabash County Commissioners will accept bids for the certificates of sale, for the price referred to in IC 6-1-1-24-6.1(a)(3), by public auction on April 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM Courthouse Time at the Wabash County Courthouse Commissioners Room. At the discretion of local officials, the sale may switch to an online format. If those measures are taking place, the public auction will be conducted as an electronic sale under IC 6-1-1-24-6.3(c) at www.zeusauktion.com commencing on the same date / time listed above. All location updates will be posted at www.sriservices.com prior to the sale.

Pursuant to IC 6-1-1-24-5.1, a business entity that seeks to register to bid in an Indiana Commissioners' Certificate Sale must provide to the county treasurer, a Certificate of Authority from, or proof of registration with the Secretary of State.

Pursuant to IC 6-1-1-24-3(e), property descriptions may be omitted for properties appearing on the certified list in consecutive years. A complete property list may be obtained at www.sriservices.com or in an alternative form upon request.

A person redeeming each tract or item of real property after the sale of the certificate must pay: (A) the amount of the minimum bid under Section 5 of IC 6-1-1-24 for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale; (B) ten percent (10%) of the amount for which the certificate is sold; (C) the attorney's fees and costs of giving notice under IC 6-1-1-25-4.5; (D) the costs of a title search or of examining and updating the abstract of title for the tract or item of real property; (E) all taxes and special assessments on the tract or item of real property paid by the purchaser after the sale of the certificate plus interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum on the amount of taxes and special assessments paid by the purchaser on the redeemed property; and (F), all costs of sale, advertising costs, and other expenses of the county directly attributable to the sale of the certificate.

If the certificate is sold for an amount more than the minimum bid under Section 5 of IC 6-1-1-24 for which the tract or item of real property was last offered for sale and the property is not redeemed, the owner of record of the tract or item of real property who is divested of ownership at the time the tax deed is issued may have a right to the tax sale surplus.

Indiana law prohibits a person who owes delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, or costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, from purchasing tracts or items of real property at a tax sale. Prior to bidding at a tax sale, each bidder must affirm under the penalties for perjury that he or she does not owe delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs directly attributable to a prior tax sale, amounts from a final adjudication in favor of a political subdivision in this county, any civil penalties imposed for the violation of a building code or ordinance of this county, or any civil penalties imposed by a health department in this county. Further, each bidder must acknowledge that any successful bid made in violation of the above statement is subject to forfeiture.

In the event of forfeiture, the bid amount shall be applied to the delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, costs, judgments, or civil penalties of the ineligible bidder, and a certificate will be issued to the county executive.

The Commissioners specifically reserve the right to withhold from the sale any parcel which has been listed in error, or which otherwise becomes ineligible for sale either prior to the start or during the course of the auction. The Auditor's Office does not warrant the accuracy of the key numbers or street addresses published herein and any misstatement in the key number or street address does not invalidate an otherwise valid sale.

Dated: 02/18/2021

Tax Unit Name: Chester Township

Owner of Record: Francis David A

Sale ID#: 852000005

Property ID#: 85-07-21-202-007.000-001

Brief Legal Description: FAUST 1ST (SERVIA) LOT 16 DITCH 587 & 617

Property Address: 55 S Mulberry St Lot 1 Servia 46980

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Francis David A

Sale ID#: 852000006

Property ID#: 85-07-21-202-008.000-001

Brief Legal Description: FAUST 1ST (SERVIA) LOT 15 DITCH 587

Property Address: 55 S Mulberry Lot 1 St North Manchester 46962

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Francis David A

Sale ID#: 852000007

Property ID#: 85-07-21-202-036.000-001

Brief Legal Description: FAUSTS 1ST (SERVIA) LOT 7 & N1/2 LOT 8 DITCH 587

Property Address: 170 S Main St Servia 46980

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: North Manchester Corporation

Owner of Record: Thomas Angela M

Sale ID#: 852000011

Property ID#: 85-07-05-103-018.000-002

Brief Legal Description: HYMERS LOT 31

Property Address: 707 Colfax St North Manchester 46962

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Lagro Township

Owner of Record: Shelton Chris M

Sale ID#: 852000012

Property ID#: 85-11-06-304-011.000-003

Brief Legal Description: SPEICHERS 3RD (URBANA) LOTS 38 & 39 DITCH 584, 660 & 664

Property Address: 171 N 1st St Urbana 46990

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Norfolk Southern Corp

Sale ID#: 852000013

Property ID#: 85-11-07-101-018.000-003

Brief Legal Description: SCHULTZ ADDN (URBANA) EXC W 20' LOT 9 (16'X132')

EXC W 20'

Property Address: E Half St Urbana 46990

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Prickett Mary L

Sale ID#: 852000014

Property ID#: 85-11-07-101-038.000-003

Brief Legal Description: SPEICHERS 2ND (URBANA) LOT 20 DITCH 584, 660 & 664

Property Address: College St Urbana 46990

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Dyson Jeffrey Donald

Sale ID#: 852000023

Property ID#: 85-11-34-100-002.000-003

Brief Legal Description: BRADYS 7 & 16 & PT NE1/4 34-28-7 11.10AC

Property Address: Old State Road 24 Lagro 46941

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Lagro Corporation

Owner of Record: Dyson Jeffrey Donald

Sale ID#: 852000025

Property ID#: 85-11-34-103-001.000-004

Brief Legal Description: BRADYS PT 8 & PT 9 4.17AC

Property Address: Webster St Lagro 46941

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Smith Carl R

Sale ID#: 852000028

Property ID#: 85-11-34-202-081.000-004

Brief Legal Description: OP LOTS 156 & 157

Property Address: 510 Washington St Lagro 46941

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Liberty Township

Owner of Record: Hai Minh Ventures Llc

Sale ID#: 852000029

Property ID#: 85-19-06-400-029.000-005

Brief Legal Description: PT S1/2 SE1/4 6-26-7 .33AC

Property Address: 592 E 700 S Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Lafontaine Corporation

Owner of Record: Gilbert Thelma

Sale ID#: 852000032

Property ID#: 85-19-27-401-144.000-006

Brief Legal Description: MCKELVEY & JACKSONS PT 22X280 27-26-7 .18AC

Property Address: Walnut St La Fontaine 46940

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Noble Township

Owner of Record: Hileman Laura M

Sale ID#: 852000033

Property ID#: 85-13-13-301-019.000-007

Brief Legal Description: KELLERS (RICHVALLEY) 12 DITCH 510-00615-00

Property Address: 75 W Walnut St Richy Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Tax Unit Name: Wabash Corporation

Owner of Record: Bruss David & Christine Baker

Sale ID#: 852000045

Property ID#: 85-14-11-303-042.000-009

Brief Legal Description: WESTERN PT FR 45

Property Address: Main St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Young John L & Wanda F

Sale ID#: 852000046

Property ID#: 85-14-11-401-033.000-009

Brief Legal Description: NORTHERN ADD N 90' W 50' 57 NORTHERN N 52' 58

Property Address: 189 Huntington St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: France Richard

Sale ID#: 852000049

Property ID#: 85-14-11-402-097.000-009

Brief Legal Description: PT SE1/4 11-27-6

Property Address: 521 E Hill St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Hai Minh Ventures Llc

Sale ID#: 852000050

Property ID#: 85-14-11-402-107.000-009

Brief Legal Description: PT NE1/4 SE1/4 11-27-6 .16AC

Property Address: 585 E Hill St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Leach Donald L

Sale ID#: 852000051

Property ID#: 85-14-11-402-116.000-009

Brief Legal Description: PT SW1/4 N RIVER 11-27-6 .04AC

Property Address: 693 Calhoun St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Boss Construction & Properties Llc D/b/a B's Construct

Sale ID#: 852000052

Property ID#: 85-14-11-403-019.000-009

Brief Legal Description: OP LOT 230

Property Address: 213 E Hill St Wabash 46992

Minimum Bid: \$200.00

Owner of Record: Dini Consulting Inc

Sale ID#: 852000055



Church Directory

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Gospel Light Assembly of God, 347 Southwood Drive. Pastor Neil Jeffrey. Sunday School 9:45am (all ages). Morning worship service 10:30am. Evening service 6pm. Wednesday midweek service 7pm; Kids' Korral Wednesday 7pm. Youth meeting 7pm (ages 12-19).

Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.

BAPTIST

Emmanuel Free Will Baptist, 129 Southwood Drive. Pastor Terry Hinds. (260) 563-3009. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm; Children's Church 10:30am. Wednesday morning prayer service 11am. Wednesday Prayer meeting 6pm. Transportation available. Sunday worship services streaming on our Facebook page

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

Wabash Free Will Baptist Church, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Catholic Church, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses will resume, with safety restrictions, beginning May 23-24, 2020. Everyone attending Mass must wear a face mask. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

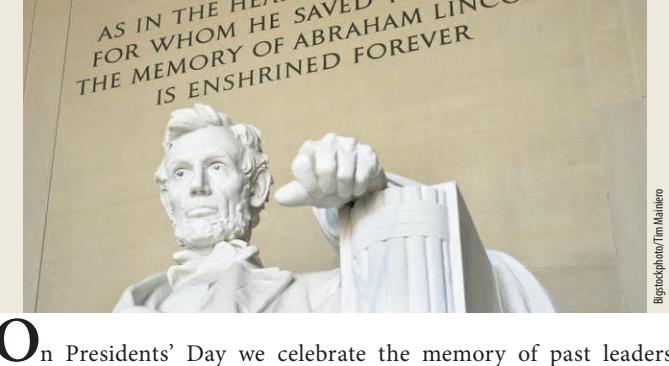
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Main Street in Lagro, Welcomes You Back! New Service Time 11:00 AM Sunday, October 4, Sunday November 1 and Sunday December 6. In keeping with COVID-19 State Rules, please wear a mask and socially distance. Let Us Worship Together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Heritage Church, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm



GREATNESS BY EXAMPLE



On Presidents' Day we celebrate the memory of past leaders, each one an example of greatness. One was Abraham Lincoln, a man of character and perseverance. He won the presidency after being defeated for public office eleven times. He came from humble beginnings and took nothing for granted, having empathy for the poor and oppressed and believing that everyone should be treated equally "with malice toward none and charity for all". Most importantly, Abraham Lincoln was a man of God. Of the Bible, he said, "Read this book for what on reason you can accept, and take the rest on faith...." Follow a great example and worship God this week.

Daily Scripture Readings

1 Cor. 13:1-13 Colossians 3:1-17 John 3:1-21 John 3:22-36 John 14:15-31 John 15:1-17 Luke 15:1-10

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org

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INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

North Manchester United Methodist Church, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

Richvalley United Methodist Church, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.

Roann United Methodist Church, Corner of Adams and Arnold Street, Roann. Pastor Wayne Balmer. (765) 833-2931. Worship Celebration 9am. Sunday School 10:15am.



CHURCHES (Businesses, too)

Advertise your special services, bake sales, breakfasts, suppers, ice cream socials, concerts, or any special event.

Call to advertise here.

765-671-2259